...After the lingual frenulectomy

When your child’s surgery is completed I will come to tell you that all is well and discuss their operative procedure. After a brief period, you will join your child in the recovery area.

He/She may be crying and will be eager to be comforted. Initially he/she will be very sleepy and irritable from the anesthetic. On awakening most children will complain of some pain below the tongue and may be nauseated. Medication is available from the nurses to ease the pain and nausea.

The recovery room nurse will review the post-operative orders prior to discharge as well as remove the intravenous line.

Please remember to schedule a follow up appointment one month after your child’s surgery for post-operative evaluation. Do not expect significant speech changes initially after your child’s procedure as it will take time for them to learn to use their more mobile tongue correctly. Your child has absorbable sutures below the tongue and these will dissolve with time. They do not require any intervention.

The discomfort from lingual frenulectomy continues for up to one week post-operatively although it should decrease over the first couple of post-operative days.

It is important that you give your child the prescribed pain medication (Ibuprofen). When your child requires medication for pain, it is best to give it about ½ hour before meals (unless it is upsetting to the stomach, in which case you would want to administer it with foods).

DO NOT GIVE YOUR CHILD ASPIRIN.

While low-grade fever is common, you should contact your doctor for fever above 101 F, redness or swelling at the incision site below the tongue, pus drainage from the incision, or lethargy. If your child has fever above 101 F, redness or swelling at the incision site, pus drainage from the incision, or lethargy contact the ENT office immediately at 215-885-1398. If no one is available, page the ENT resident on call at 215-819-3758 and take your child to the St. Christopher’s Hospital Emergency Room to be seen.

Donald Solomon MD