

Mobility-Scale-Lip (M-S-L)

© Dr. Darius Moghtader 2021 Graphics: klossannaliska@gmail.com

is an instrument for determining **the mobility of the upper lip**. **Grade 0** means a **freely movable upper lip** and **grade 3** a **severely restricted upper lip mobility**.

□ M-S-L Grade 0



Manual stress-free upturning of the upper lip is fully possible. The upper lip can be pulled completely over the entire nostrils without stress. The likelihood of obstruction during sucking due to the labial frenulum of the upper lip is eliminated. **Frenotomy** of the upper lip frenulum to improve drinking is **not medically indicated**.*

□ M-S-L Grade 1



Folding the upper lip up over the center of the nostrils is stress-free. The probability of obstruction during sucking due to the labial frenulum of the upper lip is low. If the infant turns up the upper lip during breastfeeding or drinking, or if it can be turned up manually, a frenotomy should not be performed. Even if this is not possible at first, a wait-and-see observational approach is recommended initially.*

□ M-S-L Grade 2



Turning up the upper lip to below the center of the nostrils is possible. This causes stress, which becomes visible by the white discoloration (reduced blood flow) of the gums and/or the upper lip. The likelihood of obstruction during breastfeeding or sucking due to the labial frenulum of the upper lip is increased. When breastfeeding or drinking, check the function of the upper lip. If it is retracted, frenotomy of the upper lip frenulum **may** improve drinking.*

□ M-S-L Grade 3



Manual and stress-free upturning of the upper lip is not possible. The upper lip cannot be pulled over the lower edge of the nostrils. During breastfeeding or drinking, the suspicion of the retracted upper lip must be confirmed. The likelihood of a problem with breastfeeding or sucking due to the frenulum of the upper lip is high. **Frenotomy** of the upper lip frenulum is **likely to improve** sucking or drinking.*

*** Before deciding on therapy, a presentation to a specialized professional for breastfeeding counseling and lip and tongue function testing is necessary.**