

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 3 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

My labour started at approx 5am on Saturday the 26th February 2022. My contractions were very sporadic, lasting anywhere between 5 secs to 1 min every 5mins to an hour. I had the tens machine so using that helped me through each. At 9pm I went into hospital to see if I had dilated, the midwife did an internal and said I was at 0cm. So I went home and laboured throughout the night. I ended up back in hospital the following day at 12pm needing stronger pain relief, I had dilated on 2cm. I had sc morphine on arrival with the admitting nurse. The midwife that I had allocated to me was extremely dismissive, especially when it came to my pain. She was constantly downgrading my pain score and didn't offer me any pain relief until I request an epidural at approx 6pm. She suggested I have a further dose of morphine and also had the CMO suggest it, I refused and pushed for the epidural.

Epidural was commenced by approx 7pm. Then there was shift handover. The midwife that I then had for the night shift was fantastic. She was caring and empathetic.

By approx 1130pm my son was showing signs of distress in the womb, he was having episodes of tachycardia and I was told by the on duty OB that they needed to get him out urgently. By this time I was 10cm dilated and the baby had travelled down into the birth canal.

The OB then proceeded to tell me she needed to conduct an episiotomy and use the forceps. My son was delivered at 2354 on the 27 February 22.

By then she was called to an emergency Caesarean so the registrar proceeded to stitch me. I had an upper vaginal wall tear which was missed, I began to then hemorrhage losing 2.8L blood, and had a vasovagal. I was given 5L of fluid resus, and 2units of PRBC.

The OB that was called to the Caesar eventually came back into the room and said to the registrar as he had finished stitching whilst looking at my vagina 'are you happy with the work you've done here?' and then they both left the room for a discussion. The OB then came back in, removed all the stitches and restitched my episiotomy, all whilst I was still up in the stirrups on the birthing table.

The next day I had a Fe+ infusion.

I was discharged on the Wednesday and booked into the wound care clinic 4 weeks post birth for review. The Sunday (1 week after I gave birth) I developed an infection in my episiotomy and ended up back in hospital for IVABs. I stayed for 3 nights.

When I went back to the wound clinic and was checked I was cleared and was told my wound was healing well. That same night I went home and had a bleed, my scar had a small collection that I dehisced - this was a Friday.

I went to see a private OB the next day and ended having vaginal corrective surgery 1 week from the consult - this was in May 22. She told me that I was stitched too tight and that any chance of having sex again would have been impossible and extremely painful.

I am still suffering from pain now and seeing a women's physio to help relieve symptoms.

I wished I advocated for myself more during my birth.