

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 19 July 2023

Partially
Confidential

Birth trauma submission

My name is _____ and I wish to submit my Birth Trauma experience. I'd like to address the reference:

1. (b). causes and factors contributing to birth trauma

The birth of my son, born 2010, went well until my labour wasn't progressing and was rushed to theatre where he was born via (failed ventouse) forceps and the team completed a repair on tear 2nd degree I had post birth.

As a result, My son also born with significant marks and bruises on his head from the ventouse and forceps, which as a first time mum was distressing to see. I sustained a 2nd degree tear and a long recover, I also ended up with vaginal prolapse and urge and stress incontinence, which I was then referred to have pelvic floor physio therapy with out success of treatment.

It then took me 5 years to decide to have another child, as I was so scared of what would happen.

I fell pregnant in 2015 and when I began attending antenatal appointments, I was told I would be 'high risk' due to having the prolapse. I discussed my wishes for birth during all of my appointments, stating I wish to have a caesarean birth as I was scared of going natural again and exacerbating the current prolapse I had. That was all good until I sat with an obstetrician who then told me I'm not having a caesarean as having a prolapse isn't a good enough reason to not birth naturally, taking away my right to choose my treatment path. Since I was denied the choice of a caesarean section, I stated that I would like to have an epidural asap once in labour as I was petrified of the pain, which when come to the birth, I was denied. I was told I wasn't 'ready for an epidural yet!' And was refused each time I requested to be checked so I could have the epidural. By the time any doctor made it to see me, I was crowning and my daughter was born minutes later without the epidural and causing a 3B tear, which was required to be surgically repaired under general anaesthetic. Post birth a Dr approached me to inform me that if I were to have anymore children that I would be high risk and would require a caesarean section to deliver.

I approached my gynaecologist 14 months after my 2nd child for a general check up and to discuss birth control options due to the fear I had with having another baby and falling pregnant. In this appointment I was told that not only did I have a prolapsed uterus, but my bowel and bladder were also prolapsed and I would require a hysterectomy in order to repair them. My choice to have any more children was taken away from me permanently when my daughter was 18 months old and I can't help but think, if I wasn't denied the caesarean to start with would it have had a different outcome ? I guess I wouldn't know now as I don't get that choice anymore.