

**Submission  
No 146**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

**Name:** Mrs Rachel Datt-Tuomey

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I begin this stating if I caused any offense to any of the nurses or midwives during my time and interactions with them all. For that I am sorry.

### During the pregnancy

-Only saw Drs, I understand why but still would have liked to speak to a midwife somewhere closer to birth to discuss the options of induction, breastfeeding etc.

-Was not advised about possible issues with breastfeeding until 1wk after giving birth.

-Was not able to see or speak to a midwife throughout the pregnancy. Despite requesting to do so.

-The two appointments I did were very early on and both times in discussing certain aspects of the birth, was told they don't speak about it until after 36wks.

-After discussion of induction, again if I could speak to midwife regarding options, was told the dr would go through everything. -Was giving pamphlet instead and discussed what only I knew about it.

-Last in person appointment asked to see midwife again regarding colostrum collection but was advised to sign into computer link, which was not sent to me 30mins after session had started.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb

-Was told to call that morning regarding what time to come in, advised to ring back after 3pm and probably after that would be told to come in. Or after 4pm which is what they usually tell people.

-Called again at 3, told to come as soon as I could.

-Waited to have room available (fine)

-Had to wait for Dr to be free.

-Midwives that helped during the insertion of catheter, supportive and helpful for the duration. F

-I was then left in the room, alone and with no buzzer. Was given oral pain relief at one point

-For a long duration (shift change), had to go out to ask for a blanket, was only pointed to where they were and had to waddle to get one. Down the other end of dept.

- Upon asking for pain relief, midwife was not helpful and made me feel like I was a criminal and had to discuss specifically what and where I was feeling pain. (With pursed lips).
- Then was told had to move to normal ward, midwife begrudgingly assisted me with my bags, (was alone as husband had to go home to other children).
- Again, asked for pain relief, was told because given 1endone and 1 temaz, quota was up.
- Finally slept till the am once catheter had slipped out.

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Feb

- Got moved to birth suit after 10am.
- Discussion with midwife occurred, pain relief options, if husband wanted to be involved. Some discussion on what was available in room to help birth.  
  
I wish I was given an indication how quickly contractions would come and how it would be quite painful very quickly.
- Midwife then continually in and out of room, forgetting what she was getting, where she was up to, where she had misplaced something.
- 1<sup>st</sup> midwife missed 2 cannulation attempts, another midwife places a 3<sup>rd</sup> in right hand.
- waters broken.
- Was able to have lunch as midwife was still trying to find everything needed for my induction.
- Synto commenced and ivabs. Midwife did not stay in room for any contractions, husband had to time them and guide me to breathe adequately. Nil suggestions as to what positions would make it more bearable or breathing exercises.
- Felt like it went from 0-100 in a matter of mins. I am aware that in other places that if they feel pt can't bear it they turn synto down.
- Had shift change, man midwife, was friendly enough but again not supportive like imagined my birth midwife to be.
- Was given IM morphine, painful. Then asked for epidural.
- Was asked to remove all clothing, only had dress on, easily removed with assistance by husband. 1<sup>st</sup> Dr missed twice. 2<sup>nd</sup> Dr called. 3<sup>rd</sup> attempts successful. Was contracting the entire time. With husband only helping hold me during the attempts of epidural.

-Then was able to rest. Midwife kept checking CTG. Unsure if I was checked, was very drowsy by this time and falling asleep. Do remember a pv exam being done as per dr request I believe.

-Was then seen by a Dr to state that baby was having a too steady heart rate. Possible caesarean would be required if baby's heart rate didn't pick up.

-Again, unable to remember if midwife explained fully why it was required. Was not given reassurances that everything was done to have natural delivery.

-Dr returned looked at CTG, explained that caesarean would be necessary to deliver baby, pv exam done by dr only 5cm dilated. Consent form completed.

-Asked midwife for a gown as I knew it would be needed for OT, as stated by the midwife "I am hoping that nightshift will come on and do all that for me". Husband can verify that this is exactly what midwife stated.

-Midwife did eventually bring me a gown, handover to night staff was also done. IV synton removed. Seen by operating Dr and assistant.

-Wheeled to OT, husband left in corridor. Anaesthetic nurse starts to harass me about my jewelry not being removed, no other nurse or dr seemed bothered. Did state I was happy to remove the jewelry but the nurse continued to mention it all the way up till baby was born how much jewelry I had on and then berated the midwife " for not removing it also.

I am very aware that prior to OT jewelry should be removed but I was exhausted and didn't think to, no midwives asked me to remove it and no one else in the OT seemed to mind or bother about it. At one point my epidural had fully taken a hold and I couldn't stop shaking or could move my lower body nor arms due to the monitoring, I asked her finally what she wanted me to do about it in my current state.

-Operation commenced and I had to ask 3x to have my husband brought in. He finally was brought in 5mins before baby was born.

-Rest of OT and PACU was fine and commend their work.

-Sent back to ward, husband was told could only stay for a few more moments then would need to leave, midwife placed baby on me to feed, mentioned I had short nipples. I asked what we could do to ensure proper feeding, maybe a nipple shield, midwife stated no. baby seemed to be feeding.

-Was still unable to move fully, found it difficult to get baby out of crib. Yes I did ring the buzzer but baby screaming by that point, midwife didn't come into room until quite a while later. Was again told how busy they were and how many babies and mothers they had. This happened a few more times.

## Saturday/Sunday

-Saturday am staff were helpful in getting up and about. Did ask about breast feeding more but again it looked as if baby latching well and was still having wet nappies. Nil emphasis on any improvements or adjustments.

- Was not explained fully that I would need to stay in for IV abs post c-section. Was not explained that that could hinder chances of proper BF, nor the hashimotos or GDM.

-Baby stopped taking breast Sat evening, night shift nurse said to try formula.

She did give me a pump to try and get things going but again she was busy and no further assistance given aside from the formula.

-Was told need to stay due to IVABS, no one during the entire hospital stay discussed or explained to me how long I would stay in hospital for.

-Still wasn't given adequate assistance on BF, nurses continued to stipulate that because baby was quiet, he was feeding ok.

-Yes left before baby check was done, but that does not involve any check with me nor with BF. Went to GP on Tuesday.

-When calling hospital for assistance about not latching or possible nipple shield was told that I could get them from the pharmacy. This was 4am Monday am post being discharged at 8pm on Sunday.

-Nurse that saw husband on ward once we found very helpful and provided formula and info on nipple shield.

## Questions:

-Why could I not have a consult with midwife closer to the due date?

I feel had there been more midwifery input I would have known about the online BF classes and antenatal classes. More education on the induction.

-If midwives couldn't/are not supposed to help with moving my bags or personal items why was my husband not freely asked to stay or return once other kids settled?

-If midwives couldn't closely help with movement of me or help with baby post c-section why couldn't husband or support person stay.

-I understand ward busy but at times my buzzer was left unanswered for 45min, several occasions.