

**Submission  
No 155**

## **INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA**

**Name:** Mrs Rachel Barry

**Date Received:** 1 August 2023

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- I was induced at 41 weeks. First with the gel - failed. OB offered to do a c section if I was just "over it" because he still had 2 hours of his shift and nothing booked in. Can't believe he said that! I declined. I was sent home to come back 2 days later.

- Then sent home for 2 days and then induced with the balloon. Put in wrong at first so had to be redone. Painful as all hell.

- AROM in the morning - Synto - zero to 100 levels of pain and no easing of the pain between contractions.

- They dangled an epidural in front of me when I had said I didn't want one. Told me not to be a hero. Told me everyone who is induced gets one. Told me that the anesthetist was literally in the hallway and wasn't busy at all and could come right now. In the end I said yes...

- Epidural failed after an hour and had to be readjusted.

- Finally got to 10 cm. Pushed for an hour, but I literally couldn't feel anything so couldn't tell if I was pushing. The epidural was so strong. No one suggested any position changes or reducing the epidural. Just on my back, coached pushing.

- Drs came in and said bub was in distress. They then said that there was a serious risk of shoulder dystocia since bub was "so big." They literally told me this, "your baby is likely to get stuck because of shoulder dystocia. If that happens it is the worst kind of obstetric emergency. We will have to cut you from top to tail. We will then have to reach in and break your baby's collar bones. Not only will this be traumatic for you, it will be traumatic for the whole surgical team. You need a c section." (How can they get away with saying these things!!)

- Of course I was terrified. Of course I said yes straight away.

- Bub was 3.5kg... head circumference was normal range...

- Hospital notes that I received just recently stated 4 separate reasons for c-section depending on who completed the paper work. Not one of them mentioned shoulder dystocia. The reasons were, fetal distress (notes say 1 incident of deceleration), arrest of labour, prolonged second stage and suspected large for gestational age.

- If only I knew then what I know now.