

Submission  
No 202

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

My name is . I am 30 years old and have 2 children ages 3 and 1. Both babies were born at public. The birth of my oldest was awful. I was induced with a Cooks catheter which caused a bleed somewhere in my cervix which ended up haemorrhaging for over 30 hours as I was forced to continue labouring with the use of syntocinon. Multiple times we asked if we should opt for a C section as baby was posterior, I was bleeding with every contraction and wasn't progressing very well. I was pushed into getting an epidural at the 24 hour mark which didn't fully work but numbed from the hips down. The OB forced me to start pushing and I pushed for over 3 hours before I ended up having an episiotomy without permission or even being told it was happening (my husband watched it happen in shock as it was not discussed nor was it a medical emergency). The obstetrician then unsuccessfully tried to use the ventouse multiple times resulting in severe swelling and bruising, followed by the forceps. My child was born with cuts and bruising to their scalp and head. Following the birth I collapsed, and the obstetrician took hours to apologise and state that "I had lost more blood than anticipated" when it was discovered that my haemoglobin levels had more than halved in the time I was in the hospital from the beginning of the induction.

The second time around I discussed with multiple midwives and doctors that I did not want to be induced due to previous traumas, but at no point was it mentioned to me that the policy for gbs positive mother's is to use syntocinon to speed up labour. This was sprung on me at 1am "so we are going to start the drip now", and the induction process began rapidly and aggressively, with yet another posterior positioned baby. When I asked if I could turn the syntocinon down as it was really intense and I was having 5 contractions in a 10 minute window, I was flat out told No. As in result I went from 2cms to 10cms in less than 1.5 hours. While the second birth was faster and way easier, and less physically traumatic, I am still upset by the fact I was not listened to in both the beginning of the induction and not turning the syntocinon down.