

Submission  
No 207

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

I had hyperemesis gravidarum in my first pregnancy. I presented to Hospital feeling like I was on the verge of death after non-stop vomiting for days, unable to keep a drop of fluid down. They made me sit in the emergency waiting room for 5 hours, never being offered a bed or being referred to maternity/antenatal. I was eventually put on a drip (still in the waiting room). As the nurse was hooking me up she made a comment saying that if I couldn't handle being sick, then I'm going to have an awful time during labour.

I fought for the rest of my pregnancy against presenting to emergency, despite non-stop vomiting, because I didn't want to face that type of commentary from medical professionals. Eventually I had to go in because I was once again feeling like I was on the verge of death, and the emergency nurse said to me "you don't look dehydrated", completely dismissing what I had told her. After hours of waiting in the waiting room, again never being offered a bed or being referred to maternity/antenatal, I got the results back from my urine sample. The doctor told me that I had incredibly high ketones in my urine, meaning that my body was so starved and dehydrated that it's gone into survival mode, and that she's shocked I was even conscious. It was the first time in 16 weeks that a medical professional actually validated and confirmed what I was telling them.