

Submission
No 502

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

My name is _____ and I wish to tell my traumatic birth experience at Hospital. I was under the care of Dr _____ .. _____ and

On 2nd February 2022 I had a telehealth high risk antenatal appointment with Dr _____. I was 38 weeks pregnant at this appointment, my blood pressure was slightly elevated but I was not diagnosed with pre-eclampsia. During my pregnancy my blood pressure was only slightly elevated twice after each time I had a blood pressure study completed and my blood pressure was acceptable and within normal range. During this appointment with Dr _____ Dr _____ ask me if I was going to be induced. I said that my doctor and I were discussing being induced. _____, midwifery unit manager informed me that she would come back into the room and discuss the induction with me. _____ return into the room and informed me that I would be induced on the 5th Feb 2022 and had written it in the diary without any input from me. This made me feel uncomfortable and scared and I ask _____ why she wanted me to be induced at 37 weeks pregnant, _____ informed me that my pregnancy was high risk and explain why my pregnancy was high risk as this pregnancy was an IVF pregnancy, I had low platelets and gestational diabetes this was control by diet and a had a prior miscarriage and that she wanted all high-risk pregnancy induced early due to 6 other women due to give birth the same week as I. I believe there was no clinical reason for me to be induced at 37 weeks. I informed _____ that I didn't feel comfortable giving birth that early and that I would need to speak to my husband as he was my support person it was her opinion that I didn't need to discuss the induction with my husband at that at 38 weeks that the baby would be full term. I left the hospital feeling upset and coerced in to having an induction. During my time at the hospital _____ did not give me any information regarding being induced this includes possible complications of being induced.

Thursday 3rd February 2022, my husband _____ and I attended an appointment with Dr _____ at _____. I was informed that I would be induced on the 13th February 2022 during this appointment there was no discussion of risks of being induced and the reason why I was being induced. I felt pressured by the hospital and by Dr _____ to be induced, I agreed to be induced on Sunday the 13th of February 2022.

Sunday 13th February 2022 at 9:30am I arrived at _____ hospital were Dr _____ applied Cervidill to my cervix. Dr _____ did not discuss the procedure to me and didn't discuss possible complications of being induced.

Monday 14th February, Dr _____ check my cervix and informed me that I was not dilated and removed the cervidill. Dr _____ informed me that I had a couple of options moving forward. The first option was he could perform a c- section early Tuesday morning, this made me feel uncomfortable and I felt coerced, the other options was to continue with an induction or going home and waiting for nature labour to take place. I informed DR _____ that if I went

home, I was going to lose my baby, Dr [redacted] said "He wouldn't recommend for me to going home' I felt that Dr [redacted] made no effect to reassure me. I agree to have a 2nd cerdwill reapplied. During the course of my treatment, I wasn't informed of possible complications of being induced. From 5pm I started to have regular contractions my contractions were 10 minutes apart, [redacted] applied electronic monitor attached to a belt around my abdomen, during the monitoring it was left on for 45minutes I was unable to move around and become very distress physically and emotionally and was in lot of physical pain as my contraction were less than 1 minute apart. My husband and I were trying to get someone to give us support but ignored by the midwives on duty for 45 minutes. We press the buzzer a number of times and my husband went to the nurse station but no one was available to assist me. Finally, [redacted] attended to my needs and took of monitor and undress me and directed me to the shower and gave me 2 panadeine forte. After I was able to calm down and my contraction slow down but the came unregular during the course of the night.

Tuesday 15th February at 6:30am Dr [redacted] check my cervix and removed the cerdvidill and informed me that I was 1cm dilated and artificially rupture my membranes. After my membranes ruptured, I started to have contractions every 10 minutes and then 1 contraction every 3 minutes. 11:00 am my contractions begin to slowdown and I started to get anxious, I informed [redacted] that I was concerned but I was ignored by her. 12:30 Dr [redacted] came into the delivery room and did a cervical check he did not ask for me permission to do the check, Dr [redacted] check my cervix and informed me that I was 3cm, I informed him that my contractions had slow down but I was also ignored by him he then informed me if I hadn't made any progress by 7pm that would need a c-section.

1:00pm, I requested to be place on the Syntocinon (oxytocin) infusion as I was concerned that my contractions were irregular. I was given the infusion at 2pm. My contractions become very regular and painful. At 3pm my contractions were intense and I requested an epidural I ask [redacted] twice for the epidural for the course of 1 hour and half I was offered no other pain relief e.g., gas, hot shower or morphine. Dr [redacted] admitted the epidural at 4:30pm before the procedure I wasn't informed of the possible complications. After the procedure I was informed that the procedure may not work as there was blood in the epidural line. It was not discussed with me what other options were available.

5:30: Three nurses came in to the delivery room and they bickering who was going to do a cervical check on me this made me feel very uncomfortable and awkward like there was something wrong with me, [redacted] said fine I will do it. She came into the room and said that I need a cervical check, she did a cervical check and informed me that I was 3cm

Dr [redacted] came back into the delivery room at 6:30pm and said that he was going to do a cervical check he did not ask for my permission he informed me that my daughter was posterior and high and that I was 2-3 cm (I recently got my noticed and I was actually 3-4cm and was lied to about how dilated I was)and said that I would need to have a C-section at this time I was in shock I couldn't understand what he was saying and he just walked out he didn't give me an opportunity to ask any questions I remember [redacted] informing me possible compilations of having a C-section but I did not understand her as I couldn't comprehend what was happening around me. Dr [redacted] come back in to the room and asked me to sign a form to give him permission to perform a C-section I remember signing the form but couldn't

understand what I was signing. I felt that he waited until I could not make decisions or ask questions to perform a C-section and I felt coerced into having a c section.

While The C-section was performed, I remember feeling in shock and thinking negative feelings I wanted to go to sleep to never wake up and at that point I didn't love my daughter and I felt like I was going to hurt her. during a C-section my daughter was placed next to me wrap and during the recovery she was given to me wrapped I wasn't encouraging to do skin to skin with her we didn't have skin to skin or place on my breast to feed her

After recovery I was taken back to my room with my husband and my daughter. My daughter was my first child I didn't know how to breastfeed her, I had some colostrum and was not given any direction how to give my daughter colostrum in the freezer Around 2 am and an asked me if I wanted my daughter to be taken to the nursery for us to get some sleep and to I ask to check my daughters glucose checked I agreed for her bloods to be checked and said is she's settled after getting her blood checked to bring her back, I went to sleep as I was exhausted and my daughter wasn't return to 6:30 am my daughter was return to me and I ask how my daughter went and she said she was fine and didn't cry and just went to sleep. I was in shock and didn't understand why my daughter wasn't return to me. Breastfeeding wasn't established until 12:00pm the next day. No one had shown me or offered me assistance to feed my daughter before 12.00pm.

8th April 2022 I informed Dr how I felt regarding my c section, my mental health concerns and how my treatment was handling at hospital. I ask Dr why did he perform the c sections and why did he wasn't he completely honest with me and that I didn't want a c section. Dr informed me that he felt that me having a c section was in the best interest of delivering a healthy baby, this made me feel that I wasn't able to give birth naturally and for my baby to be born healthy. Dr said that pregnancy was an IVF pregnancy, I had low platelets and gestational diabetes this was control by diet and a had a prior miscarriage that having. C- section was in my best interest

I had traumatic experience at hospital I feel that I had an unnecessary c-section and was coerced to being induced and having a c section and I feel that I have lost autonomy and control because it wasn't lifesaving. I didn't feel safe and respected and no one ask me what my birth plan was.

I now suffer from severe postnatal depression, anxiety and severe post-traumatic stress disorder that has greatly affect my life and my relationship with my daughter.

The main issues I am concerned about I wasn't given formal information regarding my treatments; I was coerced into making decision with out informed consent and bully into having an induction and c-section.

I strongly feel that I was coerced and groomed into having an unnecessary c-section
Thank you for taking the time to read my story. I can be contacted via mobile or email if you would to discuss my story more.

Regards