

Submission  
No 468

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 11 August 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

I didn't realise until i was pregnant with my 2nd baby that i had experienced birth trauma with my first. Just over years ago, j was advised at 40 weeks and 5 days that i needed to be induced as i had a high amount of amniotic fluid (polyhydraminos). I was admitted and had my waters broken, which was extremely painful. No one had talked me through exactly what an induction entailed.

After having my waters broken i then had the syntocin drip started and mild contractionss started almost immediately. This started at 7:30am and went on all day. Throughout the course of 12+ hours i was given gas only until i requested an epidural at approx 7:30pm. The first didn't work, so a dr had to come back 30 minutes later and do it again. Again I was not really informed about what this mean, i.e. i could only birth on my back in a bed.

I was then informed they were struggling to keep an eye on baby's heart rate so they in very vague terms said "we're going to pop a trace on your baby's head, its just a little clip to accurately check her heart rate" to which i agreed. Not knowing until AFTER she was born that it was a metal screw, screwed into her scalp.

Soon after they advise her heart rate was dropping. I don't recall being asked ONCE or even being told i was about to have an episiotomy, it just happened as they had to get her out. Which they then used a vacuum to get her out, which initially popped off her head and they had to try a second time. They eventually got her out, however her head now had a cut on it from the fetal trace and a fist sized haematoma bulging lump type bruise in my babies head. In the birth suite i had 2 midwives, 1 student midwife, my dr, plus the dr who did my epidural and 1 more dr who helped get my placenta out. I had a large amount of blood loss. Oh and my husband. It was very overwhelming to say the least. I was in a great deal of pain for weeks post episiotomy as i had no prior knowledge of exactly what that was.

Fast forward 4 years giving birth to my 2nd, i was all booked in at my local hospital as a PRIVATE patient to have my baby. When I arrived in active labour, i had 1 midwife. Unfortunately it was overlooked on my antenatal card that i was a private patient of a certain dr, and the oncall dr was called instead. At this point i was 9cm (natural spontaneous labour) everything seemed to be going well, however my baby's heart rate then started dramatically increasing so i was made get out of the shower into the bed on my back.

I was then told i NEEDED an episiotomy to get her out. Being more informed i asked how urgent it was, they prepped me and gave me a local and gave me one chance to push to get her out myself, which i managed to do. However where the dr had inserted the needle for the local i had developed a large haematoma, which post birth I was just told to keep an eye on. I managed to birth my baby myself. After she was placed on my chest, it was hour's before my baby and i were tended. We had to wait until the next shift change 2 hour's later. They eventually did my babies observations and got us into a room.

I had throughout the first 24 hours expressed concerns that my baby wasn't feeding well. I was told this was standard newborn behaviour and not to worry, no further observations were done despite my concerns.

My personal dr who i was meant to have been booked in with came in the following morning to do the newborn screen. Long story short, he discovered my babys heart rate was up near 30p bpm. She was taken into a monitoring room and by the end of the day we were flown to [REDACTED] hospital where we spent the next 15 days as she was diagnosed with Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome. As the children's hospital was seperate from the adults i was required to be discharged from my local hospital so i could be with my baby. As i was no longer an inpatient i personally had no postnatal checks until we returned home 15 days later, however no physical checks took place just verbal. Being on my feet constantly while my baby was in the NICU caused my haematoma to worsen, healing was not going well and i was in so much pain. I eventually had my 6 week postnatal check to which I was told i had an anterior prolapse. I asked if i could have a referral to see someone, if i hadn't asked myself i would have been told to just do my pelvic floor exercises at home. I then waited another 6 weeks to find out i have a stage 2 bladder prolapse and my pelvic floor muscle has torn away from the bones due to my traumatic first birth and lack of recovery from my 2nd. I am now working with her to try things prior to opting for surgery.