

Submission
No 535

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was told my daughter was underweight in one of the later scans of my pregnancy. In the same appointment he claimed that everyone measures the ultrasound scans differently. They began pushing for an induction when I only had a couple of weeks left, saying the umbilical cord may have stopped working and now my daughter wasn't gaining sufficient amount of weight.

After hearing the statement that everyone scans differently I pushed to get another ultrasound to check my daughters size before accepting I had to have an induction.

She was larger but they still claimed they thought maybe she was too small.

I went in to have the induction 2 days before my due date. That night I had contractions with back pain and felt no confidence in myself for the birth. Late that night my nurse to check how dilated I was I think for the 2nd time, I found out I had a thrush infection from the midwife moments before she shoved her hand up to check my cervix. I was young and had not been told by anyone what needed to happen to me to check how dilated I was. I have been sexually abused in my past and was extremely mentally sensitive at that time. This was shocking to me and I thought it was ridiculous and upsetting that no one talked about any of it. Perhaps I was an idiot for not thinking too much on it. The thrush was awful and they suggested having the gas to help. The gas made me feel even worse and I had just told my mum to go home because I thought it would be a long time until I saw a nurse as we had waited for hours.

They had to put in the balloon to help me dilate. This was excruciating.

The next morning I was having contractions still and they asked me to remove the balloon. I pulled it out in the shower and shortly after they said the babys heart rate had spiked (after some time after the birth I thought who wouldn't freak out about being pushed up from this balloon and then dropped down after removing the balloon! My daughter was head down in position in my cervix to come before all of this). They said they could not trust what was reading my babys heart rate from the outside of my pregnant belly and that they had to go up through my cervix to put a needle in her head to confirm whether her heart rate had spiked or if she was okay.

They then manually broke my waters with this hook thing, that showed that my daughter had pooped, meaning she had to come out immediately.

So I was then told everything that could go wrong from the surgery to confirm I knew, I had to have an epidural in my spine even though I was shaking like a leaf (and didnt stop for the next 48 hours).

I had someone snap at me and was stressed out that I hadn't undressed and got into the surgery gown I had not even been given (I found out minutes before I had to have a c section) and was hurried onto the hospital bed. By this stage I was hyperventilating and had over 10 doctors stand over me while I lay helpless on a hospital bed being zoomed around the hospital and had the doctors explain the worse case scenarios and all everything that had to happen in the next moment to come. I was completely terrified and was constantly shaking, my voice and entire body. I am only a small woman and the epidural made me numb all the way up to my shoulders. I was weak, I couldn't feel my body, I was completely out of it and absolutely fucking terrified.

While I had my cesarean done my arm kept going numb then with pins and needles due to it not finding my pulse so it went tighter and tighter. I felt like they were rummaging around the bottom of a handbag and then all of a sudden my baby girl is shown to me before being taken away. When they brought her out the doctor waiting to check her looked at her briefly before walking out. She was a healthy weight. Absolutely nothing wrong with her. I now realise all of what happened was for no fucking reason.

My baby was taken away before I even touched her. Which I specifically asked not to happen. I wanted her with me immediately and checked after I had time with her. I felt heart ache when they passed her to my cousins wife(who I chose to come in with me) before I got to hold her. Overall I was so happy she was okay. And was trying so hard to ignore how awful the entire experience was.

In the recovery section afterward I was completely out of it I was woozy and weak and they tried to put her on me and leave her. I was still numb and shaking and had no strength in my entire body. I felt like I couldn't hold onto her by myself I was petrified to drop her so I asked my cousins wife to help.

My daughter is a beautifully healthy child and has always been healthy since birth. I didn't realise how much I haven't dealt with this as I am shaking and very out of it whilst reading over this.