

Submission
No 643

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I have had 3 births, one stillbirth at 39 weeks with my son due to a cord accident and the other two were live babies full term. My Third labour was my most traumatic. My midwife was going away for the weekend and the midwife and OB in a public hospital convinced me to get induced so I could hurry my labour and have the baby that day (a Friday before a long weekend.) I really didn't want to be induced with syntocinon and I had advised this throughout my pregnancy. After having a stillbirth with my first baby I really wanted to have a natural labour to allow the baby to come out when he was ready. I was 40 weeks and a lot of pressure was put on me to be induced. My waters broke in the early hours of that morning but my contractions had not really begun.

I was given a drip and synthetic oxytocin 7 hours after my waters broke and it was increased over the period over a few hours. (I now know it's normal hospital policy to give women 24hrs before inducing after waters break) I laboured with no pain relief as I didn't want an epidural and felt like things were progressing very quickly in the afternoon. I felt I was almost ready to push when my midwife suggested that she put the continuous monitor (screw) into my baby's head. I agreed knowing I wanted his heart rate monitored. His heart rate dropped and decelerated for over 9 minutes, I was then moved from my birth suite and told I would be having a C section under General anaesthesia. The anaesthesiologist tried to get my oxygen levels up but due to the fact I was at the end of labour and screaming a lot this was very difficult. Then once I was wheeled into theatre another OB walked in and said no this baby is too close to coming. I was then coached to push as hard as I could while on the operating table in a very awkward position. I was surrounded by people I had never met and being 6ft tall could barely fit on the operating table without falling off the side and trying to push my baby out lying on my back. I was then given a large episiotomy and my baby was helped out by the OB and my pushing. My baby was taken to make sure he was ok and put under the lights. He was ok and started crying within a few minutes.

My problem with this whole labour is that my baby was put under stress to come out faster than he probably wanted. I didn't feel like my concerns were heard when I said I didn't want to be induced with synthetic hormones. I was then stitched up with no anaesthetic and felt like my labour was out of my control and now managed by the doctors rather than my own body. It felt horrible and I wondered why I wasn't given the opportunity to properly push my baby out in the birth suite. Also would he of been as stressed if I was allowed to wait and not be induced right away. If I would go back to that Friday I would have walked out of the hospital and came back when in active labour rather than be induced early.