

Submission
No 708

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

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Partially
Confidential

I was induced which I didn't want but was told it needed to be done.

I was not told how intense the contractions would be from the medications.

I could not get comfortable as I had to have a monitor on my stomach the whole time.

In every prior appointment I had told the hospital how I have anxiety and depression. It was not told to the midwives and they were not prepared for when I started having bad anxiety during labour.

I did not feel emotionally supported by the staff while in labour.

I was first offered gas and air for pain relief, and then right before I was pushing I had pethidine. I had been awake all day and night and it was early morning. The pethidine made me even more fatigued and was falling asleep while trying to push my son out.

A doctor came in and said I needed help to give birth and we had to go to theatre. In theatre I was given an epidural so I couldn't feel anything and was told they will deliver with forceps. My son was still having trouble coming out even with forceps, and when they did finally deliver him, he was delivered so fast that the cord snapped from the placenta and he immediately lost a lot of blood!

His scores were low and he was taken to NICU for an hour to be monitored. One hour or so later he was wheeled in so I could finally hold my son and he looked like he'd been in a rugby match. He had major bruising over his face and head and he ended up having temporary palsy on one side of his face!

Over the next 24 hours in hospital we were adjusting to feeding and looking after our son. At one point a midwife named _____ noted my son was making strange sounds while breathing and had a doctor come check my son out. The dr said my son was fine.

My mum had come to visit and was holding my son. Out of the blue my son had a seizure and stopped breathing. It was the most terrifying moment of my life. A code blue was called and he was rushed to NICU.

He was closely monitored and no other signs of apneas occurred. We were in the special care unit for a week until we could go home.

I kept questioning why my son stopped breathing and was it due to the traumatic birth

. All the medical staff kept denying it.

My son was approximately 8 months old when diagnosed with hydrocephalus. He had no indications of the condition during pregnancy.

I again asked if the traumatic birth was a cause for this lifelong illness my son now faces. Again the medical staff said no, but they couldn't say why it has happened.

I also had a third degree tear and was given an episiotomy without being asked.

I have a complete distrust of the medical and obstetrics field now. I do not wish any one else go through what we went through.