

**Submission
No 766**

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Mrs Cassandra Jacob

Date Received: 10 August 2023

I gave birth to a big baby, he was 4.1 kgs. I knew that he was big from all the scans so we decided that i would need to be induced at 39 weeks as he was too big (i had tried three stretch and sweeps at 38 weeks but nothing had happened). We went into hospital to start the oxytocin drip and have my waters broken by the midwives. this needed to be done twice as only my forewaters broke the first time and labour did not start. When it did it was hard and fast, I went from 3cm dilated when i came in to 8cm in an hour, i was having contractions every 40seconds that lasted 30seconds i was not getting a rest and asked for the epidural. the anaesthetist was able to put a full epidural in which was amazing and the painful non stop contractions were gone, the baby went in distress and i needed to go to theatres to have a forceps delivery that could turn into a Caesarean if he got stuck. my baby did get stuck with shoulder dystocia, the obstetrician tried many different manoeuvres to get him out, she was able to get him out eventually with a fractured collar bone.

i had an episiotomy on the right side and a tear to the left side, my pubic bone was sore and tender for months and felt like it was also fractured. the doctors said this was a possibility but that they wouldn't do anything for it and it just needed to heal. the left tear to this day is still tender two years later. my son had right sided berber damage and needed physio as a baby. my husband and i were too scared to hold him or dress him due to the fracture he cried a lot and was a colicky difficult newborn. to this day he is still weak on the right side and runs a little funny, his milestones were all delayed due to the total nerve damage from when he was born. i don't think we had enough follow up i would have liked to have seen a peadiatrician and or obstetrician not just the gp and physio.

i eventually for a phone appointment as this was during covid. my phone debrief from the hospital was good to know everything that happened as no one told me at the time, i was told any future births will have to be a caesarean as the risk was too high to me and the baby. breastfeeding was difficult as he favoured the left side and i only fed on one boob so i got mastitis and nipple thrush. eventually got him onto formula and he put on a good amount of weight. he doesn't eat solids very well at two years old and still has the bottle but he goes to daycare four days a week and has finally started talking a lot. we love him so much!!! i'm waiting till i feel completely better before trying again and i want to be in the best shape possible and make sure my son is ok and independent before going through another birth and newborn phase again