

Submission
No 778

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing in regards to the birth trauma I endured with my son _____, born 22/04/22 at _____ Hospital.

I had planned a homebirth as I was no stranger to birth trauma, as I watched my friend give birth and endure it 8 years prior.

After a difficult labour at home, I was transferred to hospital. However, The labour itself wasn't the traumatic experience. It was the aftermath that followed.

The day after _____ was born, I alerted the nurse to a green-tinged vomit that _____ had

This set off alarm bells within the hospital and my newborn bubble was popped beyond belief.

5 minutes later I had 2 doctors show up at my bed and demand that _____ have an immediate X-ray and blood test. They said they suspected a bowel issue, which I questioned as he had already done a couple of poos.

I also asked if all his vital signs were normal (which they were) so I asked to wait and monitor before going ahead with any tests.

The doctors didn't like being told "no" so came back with the Head Pediatrician (so there was now 3 doctors standing over me plus a nurse) and he said "if this was my child I would be getting it straight away".

After being bullied into it, I agreed to the X-ray and blood test to "get them off my back" as the mum guilt and "what-ifs" was starting to set in.

But it actually had the opposite effect. They said the results were "inconclusive" and that _____ needed an immediate neonatal transfer to _____ Hospital.

They refused to show me the x-ray, refused to let me talk to the specialist. Instead, told me the only way to talk to the specialists or get any answers was to transfer.

Again they Bullied me into the transfer as they kept emphasising that he could need immediate bowel surgery. They would never answer me on what else it could be but just kept pushing the "worst case scenario".

Therefore _____ needed to be prepped for surgery before he left. This involves having a cannula and tubes down his throat. Watching this happen was so traumatic.

Next I was told that I wasn't allowed to go in the ambulance with _____. That I'd have to be separated and go in my own ambulance. The only way I could go with him was by discharging myself as a patient first (bear in mind I had given labour with forceps and an episiotomy less than 24 hours earlier).

The ambulance ride was like a nightmare. I was in so much pain myself, yet I had to be strong for _____.

When we arrived, I asked for some new pads and nurofen for my bleeding and pain. Yet k was declined as I was no longer considered a patient.

After a few hours of waiting around, we were taken down to the imaging theatre. _____ was pumped full of dye to trace through his digestive system

I was told "wait outside, the results are immediate so he will either be rushed to emergency surgery or he'll be given the all-clear". I was beside myself, those 15 or so minutes felt like a lifetime. I've never cried so much in my entire life. Left in a hallway, separated from my baby.

The nurse came out saying "he's fine" and a big part of me was obviously relieved but equally I wanted to scream "F you!!!!". I knew in my heart that he was fine the entire time, but I was bullied into this traumatic experience.

I carry the trauma with me every day. It makes me feel so guilty as a mother and I'm constantly trying to make-up for the experience. I will never forget being made to feel like my thoughts and emotions didn't matter. It was all about the doctors "ticking off boxes" and not being liable. They did not care how I felt at all.