

Submission
No 1372

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I was scheduled to be induced in early 2021 at _____ Hospital - public hospital. After about 30+ hours of labour, I was told there is possibly meconium in my amniotic fluid. Student midwife did fetal scalp electrode which caused complications as she could not insert it properly and had to take out the same electrode and do it a few times and it was still unsuccessful and doctor was called to do it which finally it was successful and they noted baby is not stressed.

Subsequently they did an epidural a few times (a few different doctors, senior doctor and finally a consultant senior doctor was called to attempt again which ultimately it was successful). Insertion of the epidural in itself gave me so much pain and issues at the time and afterwards.

I was taken for cesarean and a second year junior doctor did the cesarean without supervision as it was urgent and the senior registrar came late (by the time senior registrar arrived the surgery was finished). A couple of hours after the baby was born I was vomiting and very sick and then later on high fever and about 12 hours after I went unconscious and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit (the "ICU"). Doctors in the ICU had to open up the caesarean site again and they took out about 250 ml of pus infection on that surgery post caesarean. It was impossible to believe how within 24 hours you can be very healthy and then you can be very dead, getting sick and sicker and be told "she has only 10-20% chance of surviving".

I was unconscious most of my time in the ICU and they kept me in an induced coma so they could do surgeries. I was unable to look after our newborn and family were called to assist and baby was taken to another section of the hospital away from me. The doctors in the ICU and consultants advised my family that it is _____ and somehow serious infection went to my bloodstream during cesarean or just hours before it.

Later on they advised it is " _____ and I had to have many surgeries done in order to survive. My whole body was swollen and I had very high fever and was mainly unconscious and was communicating by writing notes on piece of paper for my family as I was in and out of surgery. I recall I had to prepare for surgeries sometimes on daily basis and at times every two days and if I was lucky every few days for about two months - in order to remove dead tissues, skins, muscles and pus. I became very ill but when I came out of the coma my concern was about my child and her health and also I wanted to see the junior doctor that delivered me but unfortunately somehow the day(s) after cesarean he disappeared to another hospital! I was treated by so many different specialist and many students na junior doctors came to my bedside to listen from consultants and learn about this type of infection. I witnessed breach of infection control so many times that I lost my trust in the system as well as breach of privacy and my personal information. I was at the mercy of medical professional and had no choice but to listen to medical advice and follow their guidance.

It was around number 13 surgery about a month after my child was born that I was awake during the entire surgery - I heard and felt all pain while doctors were trying to remove central lines from one side of my neck and cut the other side of the neck for new central lines to inject antibiotics and painkiller as well as general surgery to remove infection and dead tissues. After that episode awareness and being awake during anaesthesia I did not give any more consent for any further surgery. From that particular surgery I went insane and they took me for MRI which caused further complications. The day after they came to get consent from me and I did not give any permission to do any more surgery so doctors had to go to tribunal to get

consent to do more surgery to save my life. After that particular surgery I did not survive mentally and until this day I have nightmare and unable to sleep most nights or let my family have a rest as I wake up from time to time screaming thinking I am alive during the surgery and I am on so many different medications for pain, bowel and bladder Incontinence and my. Mental health and Post traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD"). I could not remember my child's first year or so as I was basically disabled and unable to walk to manage my toileting as well as nightmare, constant visits with doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, physiotherapist, neurologists and constant medical treatment, even still until this day... Even a simple blood test and needle is a flashback and too reminiscent and causes distress and nightmare. It is a life time recovery.