

Submission  
No 1350

## INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

10th Feb 2023 at Hospital at NSW, it was supposed to be a good experience but ended to be a disgraceful memory.

I can't even write too many details yet as I'm still ill mentally and working on varied therapies to recover. Can elaborate more details further.

In summary, I was induced on 9th Feb 23 as I was told my levels of fluid were low, it was late evening (7pm) and my partner wasn't allowed to stay with me. By 7 am 10th Feb midwife came to broke my water and I felt a pain during this procedure- told by her that is normal.

Oxitocyn were administered soon after and contractions started quite fast and wild. By 12pm or so I requested epidural and then the nightmare started.

The anaesthetic did not work, after few minutes I was still feeling 100% of the contractions and therefore I asked midwife to come and check. No one trusted me, they were repeating a protocol saying "keep calm darling" and that it would take half an hour to one hour to feel the effect of the Epidural. I knew something was wrong and because I have had epidural before in my life, that sounded completely odd. For multiple times I asked for help and midwives were just repeating the protocol, useless. I was left in the room in agony for hours until the Dr who applied the Epidural came back to access me again. She doubted of my words at first and were defensive saying she did everything correctly. After examining me, she realised that in fact I was feeling everything and the epidural did not work. She then said "I'm so sorry you are going through this, I don't know what's wrong, that's very odd". I would like an investigation to see the qualification of this doctor and her experience to be eligible to such a thing, I have the feeling she lacks supervision or experience. After a lot of time wasted, she then tried troubleshooting it, causing even more pain to me, my back were felt in flame instantly, and the contractions kept going. The attempt to troubleshoot it was not successful.

After that, the Dr said sorry again and that she would leave a note to the next doctor assuming the night shift...

SEVERAL hours passed and i was left there in complete agony...without any support. Not even a midwife could come to help with other pain releaf or emotional support.

Several hours later, I've got fully dilatation and was about to start pushing when a Dr came to administer a second Epidural. That was around 7pm of 10th Feb. It was his first day at the hospital and he said the procedure was now sucessful.

Buy the time I was starting pushing, an Obstetritian came into the room, not introducing herself, not kind, just telling me she needed to examine me (touching) and soon after she was pressuring me saying I would have maximum of 2h for pushing because that's the procedure at the hospital (her words) and that if the baby doesn't come out she would use forceps or vaccum. Just a comment here that I delivered a birth plan when I arrived and I doubt she even accessed it.

She left the room and midwife's were there to assist with pushing.

I was told by them that I was doing really well, however for some reason the baby wasn't coming out. The room suddenly got crowded, new midwives entering all the time, I heard "where this bleeding is coming from?". They kept saying I was doing well, but I knew something was wrong.

Obstetrician came once again and she said "you have only 1 more hour", I can't describe how rude is to have such a pressure after all that I was going through.

Anyway, the baby didn't come out naturally, so she then asked my consent for vacuum and that was consented. Then she asked consent for episiotomy and I did NOT consented. She repeated 3 times that she needed it and I rejected the 3 times.

She was upset with me and my husband saw her doing "something" with her hands in my vaginal skin, such as enlarging the area, which I never provided consent for. The bleeding increased after that.

My baby was born at 23:27 on 10th Feb with vacuum. He didn't cry straight away but I was told all the time that he was fine.

They put the baby on my breast for golden hour and maybe 5-10 min after I started to feel strange, like low pressure symptoms. I have had an haemorrhage, quite severe.

The obstetrician looked very stressed and concerned. She said I would need to go to the theatre for surgery. Then she called someone at the hospital and was told the theatre was busy and no room for me to go. So she had to attempt to contain the bleed right where I was, at the birth room.

I can't describe the physical pain I felt while she was doing the attempts and the suture. I felt everything, I believe epidural wasn't in effect anymore. The feeling of being assaulted by her, sticking gauze in my vagina and doing aggressive movements, the pain was disgraceful.

She blamed me of having large vessels.

(I'm sorry, I'm getting sick while I write this.)

So, I stayed few hours more at the birth room, with catheter in my vagina and the gauze (a big portion of gauze remained in my vagina) causing me a lot of pain. By the next morning I was sent to the ward, in a shared room. They told me to not stand up for 48h and not to walk. I was left with the same gown I wore in the birth, dirty and with the bleeding stains all over the gown and on my body too. Only by the next day (24h+) that a midwife helped changing me on the bed and I begged to have the gauze and catheter removed. I felt miserable.

I've had blood transfusion and iron infusion at ward. My milk did not come through such stressed I was.

By the day of discharge, the obstetrician came to see me, she said something like that "do you remember what happened to you? Your baby got stuck and we used vacuum to help him come out. You have large vessels and because you refused to have episiotomy, you've got an haemorrhage." Then she said I should see my GP within 6 weeks time and that's it.

For several weeks, I couldn't barely walk. I had SUCH pain in my pelvic area as well as at my back where the epidural 1 + troubleshooting + epidural 2 were applied. I started to have a discharge on a daily basis.

The GP said, at week 6, that the area was all healed and that I could resume my activities (including sex). I vividly remember that I still was in pain and questioned how could that be healed if I was still under pain.

By June, I've decided to visit a gynaecologist and for my surprise he said I had granulated tissue all over and that I would need a surgery to remove that and to repair the vaginal area (including making all stitches again). He also said he was surprised by the 4 lacerations I presented and that the stitches seemed to be poorly made. He was also very upset with the incorrect treatment provided as my case was serious and should not have been held by a GP at

6 weeks, instead, he said the obstetrician should have done the follow up at Hospital.

I undertook a private surgery at Hosp, for vaginal repair in June 2023. Attached details of the surgery for repair.

I couldn't resume my activities yet, including sex.

I'm still traumatised and facing PTSD.

Kind regards,

15 August 2023.