

Submission
No 1402

INQUIRY INTO BIRTH TRAUMA

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Partially
Confidential

I had a wonderful 1st birth at _____ hospital sydney. There were medical interventions however I was consulted and made my own choice to take certain interventions.

For my second birth at _____ it was very different. My labour was taking its time however I was not in a rush and happy to wait. The midwife knew the consultant obstetrician on Duty was about to leave and told me she just needed to ask him to check in before he left.

The moment he entered everything changed. He clearly wanted to get home and get the baby out. He was very senior visiting consultant and all the midwife's were unable to say anything against him. He told me the baby was in distress and had to be vacuumed out now. I ask he why he thought that was and he said the heart rate had gone up. However when I looked at monitors the heart rate was back down and normal. I told him it seemed fine now and I didn't want to rush it. He got angry with me. And told me the baby was in the wrong position. This position he mentioned contradicted what the midwife told me the baby was and what I could tell the baby was. He told me the baby could die if I didn't get her out now. I told him this wasn't true as baby was not in distress and I wanted to wait. He scared my husband and I felt I had no support in the room at all. He then got the vacuum and pulled with such force (one of his legs up on the bed) that the baby came out with a huge deformed head. When the baby came out it was in the position that the midwife and myself had told him she was in and not what he mentioned. It also caused my husband a huge shock reaction as he was not prepared for what the baby looked like after vacuume and thought she had permanent damage (luckily it went down). It caused him to disassociate with her at birth and took him a while to feel connected. I then asked for Delayed cord clamping for 3 minutes. He got angry and told the staff loudly in front of me. "She doesn't wasn't to cut the baby cord" I told him of course I did I just wish to wait 3 minutes. He then stated arguing with me and telling me that it causes jaundice in babies if you delay cord clamping. I told him I disagreed and had read studies done at _____ that showed otherwise.

After he left midwives came to comfort me and told me I was in the right all along and that I should file a complaint against him. They apologised that they were unable to speak up against him.

They showed me stats from my daughter that proved she had never been in distress and supported delayed cord clamping after birth.

I was left crying for months and feeling that I had let my daughter down and wished I had been able to fight harder for the birth she deserved.

My third birth I hired a doula and went to the hospital very late to avoid any unwanted medical intervention. I had a beautiful water birth.