

Delayed Cesarean Sections Can Injure Mother And Baby

Written by Australian Business

SCOTTSDALE, AZ, September 13, 2013 /24-7PressRelease/ -- Each year, nearly one in three babies is born in the U.S. by cesarean section, or C-section. Some medical professionals say that number is too high, and a number of reports have come out urging pregnant women to ask questions before undergoing a C-section. In fact, Consumer Reports lists delivery by C-section for a first-time, low-risk birth and automatically performing a C-section on a woman who has previously had the procedure as two procedures to consider rejecting.

In some cases, C-sections may not be necessary. But in others, C-sections are vital for preserving the health of the mother and baby. In these cases, [delaying C-sections](#) during delivery may cause serious harm to the mother and child, and families that suffer harm as a result of these delays may be able to hold negligent physicians and hospitals accountable through a medical malpractice lawsuit.

C-Sections Can Be Medically Necessary

A C-section is the delivery of a baby by surgery. It is a major operation that often requires mothers to be hospitalized for three to four days and requires a longer recovery time than a vaginal delivery. In some cases, C-sections are scheduled, but in other cases, the need arises during labor. Doctors are trained to know when a C-section becomes medically necessary during labor.

Cesarean deliveries may be necessary in dangerous situations such as:

- Labor is progressing too slowly or stops.
- The mother develops problems with the placenta. These problems can cause dangerous bleeding during a vaginal birth.
- Umbilical cord prolapse, when the baby's umbilical cord enters the vagina. This is dangerous because the cord could be squeezed during a vaginal delivery.
- Fetal distress, such as slow heart rate or other indications that a baby is under distress.
- Mothers have medical conditions that require emergency treatment.
- The baby's head is too large to fit through the birth canal.

Failing to do a C-section that is medically necessary can result in [birth injuries](#) or even death to the mother or baby.

In one recent case, a couple sued over a delivery that left their son with severe brain damage.

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The mother went to the hospital one afternoon in April 2006. She was in the early stages of labor and delivered the next morning. A court later found that the woman's obstetrician had not properly managed the labor. He took too long to decide to do a C-section, and the child suffered a severe brain injury as a result.

The boy is now 7; his brain injury is so severe that he requires constant care. His mother stays home to care for him. A court awarded the family \$5.25 million for the doctor's negligence. It was the second largest medical claim the medical center has paid.

Contact An Attorney

If you or your baby has been harmed because a doctor failed to order a C-section in time, you may be able to hold the doctor accountable through a medical malpractice claim. An attorney with experience handling birth injury claims can best advise you about your options.

Knapp & Roberts provides experienced and caring representation for people who have been injured due to medical malpractice, including injuries from delayed C-sections. We serve people in Phoenix, Scottsdale and other areas of Arizona. For more information, call 480-991-7677 or visit www.krattorneysmalpractice.com .