



Most Common Labor & Delivery Errors

In the U.S. about 7 out of 1,000 births result in some kind of birth trauma. Many injuries are the result of errors by healthcare professionals.

7 Most common labor & delivery errors and the possible resulting birth injury:

→**Failure to diagnose potential birth complications.** A simple ultrasound can detect potential complications such as [breech position](#) or [cephalo-pelvic disproportion](#) – when a mother's pelvis is too small or a baby's head is too large. Allowing a vaginal delivery under these conditions can lead to [erb's palsy](#) or [shoulder dystocia](#).

→**Failure to monitor or detect problems with fetal heart rate, oxygen levels or other vital signs.** Too many fetal heart rate decelerations during labor and poor oxygenation during labor and birth can lead to birth injuries such as, [cerebral palsy](#), brain damage from [hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy \(HIE\)](#) or [birth asphyxia](#), or [seizures](#).

→**Failure to order a timely C-section.** Laboring too long and delaying a C-section can lead to [cerebral palsy](#), [erb's palsy](#), [shoulder dystocia](#) or [brain damage](#). A parent's request for a C-section should always be respected.

→**Incorrect or inappropriate use of a delivery tool.** A parent should be consulted of the risks prior to the use of a delivery tool, such as [forceps](#) or a [vacuum](#). If a delivery tool is used there is a risk for cerebral or [intracranial hemorrhage](#), [hematomas](#), [seizures](#), [brain damage](#) or [facial paralysis](#).

→**Incorrect medication or incorrect dose.** Any medications given before, during or after labor (such as Pitocin or Morphine) must be appropriately prescribed and monitored. An incorrect dose can lead to [seizures](#), [uterine rupture](#), [hemorrhages](#) or [retinal hemorrhages](#).

→**Failure to identify or treat infections.** A woman with an infection such as [Group B strep](#), [e-coli](#), [herpes simplex virus \(HSV\)](#), or any [sexually transmitted disease \(STD\)](#) must be appropriately treated during pregnancy, labor and delivery. Left untreated, these infections can be transmitted to the baby possibly causing [meningitis](#) or [encephalitis](#).

→**Incorrect or inappropriate delivery techniques.** Any prolonged pulling or pushing during the delivery has the potential to cause [brain damage](#), [erb's palsy](#) or [shoulder dystocia](#).

If you or your baby was diagnosed with any of the conditions listed above, it merits further investigation by an experienced attorney.



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Matt Casey and Matt Devoti are seasoned trial attorneys with nearly 40 years of experience handling birth injury claims. If you suspect your baby has suffered a birth injury, contact us today.

FREE CONSULTATIONS

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