



## The “Birth is Ours” Association is acting as State Prosecutor in the case of a seriously injured baby due to “forceps training” .

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“**Forceps training**” are carried out with medical indication just to teach the technique to students, putting both a mother and her baby unnecessarily at risk. In this case the baby was seriously injured, to the point of a fractured skull.

The claimant, Nancy Narvález, gave birth in April 2011 at the *Hospital Universitario Clínic de Barcelona* [University Hospital “Clínic” of Barcelona], with the sole company of her room companion, who witnessed how different students tried one after the other to pull her baby out with the use of forceps, under the supervision of a tutor, who even screamed at one of them, “not like that, you could break the baby’s head!”

Finally, the tutor had to pull Nancy’s baby out, who suffered severe cranial fracture, intracranial bleeding, cortical-subcortical infarction and convulsions which required a transfer to *Hospital Sant Joan de Deu* [Saint John’s Hospital] in *Esplugues de Llobregat*. Once there, they also confirmed that the baby was also suffering from an epidural hematoma caused by obstetrical trauma during an instrumental birth delivery, hypotonia (lack of muscular tone) and ischemic infarction in the area of the cranial fracture.

She was operated on to drain the hematoma. A report signed by the Head of the Neonatology Department, Dr. Krauel, verified that the ischemic injury had caused neurological motor damage to the right hand side of her body; for which she would need physiotherapy.

As to the mother, a large episiotomy was carried out on her to insert the forceps.

Nancy Narvález is a single mother, a poor immigrant working as a housekeeper, with no family ties in Spain and no other income, giving birth with the only company of a friend, another immigrant. No doubt, this profile made her perfect for the practice of “training forceps”.



This inappropriate practice should be completely eliminated from birthing theatres, as it poses a threat to the bodily integrity and security of the mother and child; and could lead to irreparable consequences. It is also unnecessary to train students with real bodies without specific consent, as there are models and simulators available for practising.

In order to prove that this is carried out on a normal basis, the Association “Birth is Ours” offers the testimony of a midwife and two expert reports: a paediatric report on the state of the baby girl and another report made by an obstetrician.

***The Association “Birth is Ours” is a non-profit organization, formed by health-care users and caregivers who wish to improve the conditions of Spanish healthcare towards mothers, sons and daughters during pregnancy, birth and postpartum.***

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