



SOME TESTIMONIES

Haloperidol
during labour en el parto **NUNCA**
MÁS never
ever

March 2021



Some testimonies

MOTHERS

BIRTH^{is}OURS
el PARTO ^{es} nuestro



Mothers

•“I asked them for an epidural because I could tell that I wasn’t going to bear it lying down on my back; to which they answered that they couldn’t give me it because I had only dilated 2cm, but that they would give me something for the pain and I accepted. They injected me something in my arm which hurt like hell! They took me directly to my room and I lay down; I fell asleep and a minute later **I felt as though my insides were splitting...I couldn’t control my body.** All of a sudden the contractions were much stronger and between them I would doze off. I wasn’t able to control anything. I only managed to bear three contractions before calling them asking for something because it was unbearable. **I felt out of my wits at once.** They offered me another dosis (only 15-20 minutes had gone by) to which I determinedly replied no because I could sense that whatever they had given me was not going to allow me to control the pain, it actually worsened it and left me in a daze. They offered me the epidural and I accepted without second thoughts. At that point only 45 minutes had gone by since the injection when I got the epidural. Then during the following hours I slept but had nightmares. **Everytime I closed my eyes, I felt like I was choking”**

A.R.L, Valdemoro Hospital , Madrid, January 2020.



Mothers

I had a great pregnancy. During a fetal monitoring session (week 39+5) I mentioned my intention of giving birth in another state hospital and, I now realise, they didn't like that; happened to be Carnival time too. Straight away they gave me a date for labour induction (40+0). On arrival they left me with the fetal monitoring belts on and after a while they gave me a prostaglandine tampon which I had in for 12 hours. That night they told my husband to go home and I was taken to a ward. I began to feel many cramps which I imagine were contractions. So as not to bother the other girl, I began to walk up and down the corridor of the ward. The nurses didn't seem to like that and they took me to the labouring area. I was told to lie down and another nurse placed the fetal monitoring belts on because she wanted to dispute that the cramps weren't contractions. That nurse then said she was going to give me something which would help me but I didn't know it was an injection until she turned me over and slammed the needle in. It had some effect on me because, although I didn't manage to sleep, I couldn't feel the contractions. The next day at around noon I was taken to a labouring room; I was administered an epidural, a drip with artificial oxytocin and they ruptured my amniotic sack in order to place electronic internal fetal monitoring. I spent all day on my back completely still. A day after, they pulled out my son with forceps and he was curled up covered in meconium. There was a team of neonatologists waiting to take him to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). He officially died a few hours after birth. Obviously the injection isn't going to be the only cause for my son's death but they should never have injected me with haloperidol when there are many other ways of alleviating labour contractions. I attach a photograph of the labour report where it can be seen that I was administered an injection of dolantina with haloperidol at 04:30.

Lucy Lo Cascio, *Hospital Universitario de Canarias*, Tenerife, 2005.



Mothers

• *In Sanitas La Moraleja (Madrid) we have been told that Dolantina is available during prodromal labour and they recommend we have it so we don't suffer until the epidural is administered.*

M.O.M, Madrid, February 2020

• *I suspect I was administered it, without my consent, just like everything else they did WITHOUT my consent. Labour induction due to oligohydramnios 40+5, unconsented vaginal examination 14h into labour during which I believe they carried out a membrane sweep (Hamilton) because of the pain I felt, injection in the arm, epidural, amniotic sac rupture, various fetal scalp ph tests on my baby, bradycardia, episiotomy, forceps (they rushed my husband out), Kristeller. **I remember having terrible pains and they injected something in my arm and I never knew what it was. The feeling I had after that was like I was drugged, disorientated and I even lost complete sense of time, the hours seemed like minutes. The pain was still there, that I can assure.** They never informed us at any time of what they were doing or of what was going on, nor of the consequences. I have come to this conclusion after having read on the subject. My memories are so bad and I was aware of the severity of the situation when I saw 8 or 9 people enter the labouring room saying "they had to get the baby out, straight away, no matter how".*

O'Donnell Maternity Hospital (MMF), Madrid, April 2019



Mothers

*•I was offered a “painkiller” whilst I was dilating enough to get the epidural. **They gave me a gluteal injection. All of a sudden I felt very tired** and the regular contractions I had been having went away; so in the end they had to induce my labour because this all happened on the night and I had broken waters in the morning. I don’t know if it was haloperidol, they never told me the name of the medication.*

S.V. Puerta del Mar Hospital, Cadiz, 2009.

•I was dilated 3 cm; they offered to give me a painkiller. I thought it strange as I was very calm and coping well with the pain. But she (the nurse) said to me that it would help me to dilate in an even calmer mood and she injected me with something. From that moment on, a sense of dizziness, like a cloud... I could feel the contractions but I would doze in between them, to the point where I can’t remember hardly anything. My partner says it was like I was sleeping and doubling up with the contractions. I don’t know that the injection had, but I never expected to be left drugged, unconscious of what was going on, and not being able to move.

Ana Isabel L.O. Materno Infantil Hospital in Granada, 2018



Mothers

When I broke waters, the (male) midwife said I hadn't dilated at all and that I should try to rest because I had a long wait ahead. When I mentioned to him that the contractions were hurting slightly, he offered me a sedative. I spent three hours with intense contractions and in between them I would fall completely drugged on the bed. I couldn't do anything until a moment came when my body was telling me to push. It was a strange feeling and a disconnection at such an important moment.

E.T.H. Hospital in Jaen, 2018.

- During my horrible labour I was medicated against my will. An hour after breaking waters, with normal regular contractions. A doctor injected me with a "flame" to induce labour and she informed me of that after having administered it. I began to have really strong and steady contractions but I wasn't dilating. After approximately 6 hours they gave me another injection. I don't know what it was, but one of the nurses told me it was morphine. The doctor wasn't there. I continued with the same contractions all night long but as though I was drugged; there is no better definition. After that many other unpleasant things happened. I don't know what I was medicated with.*

Ana ,Univeristy Clinic Hospital of Santiago de Compostela, 2011.



Mothers

•Another nurse told me I wasn't in labour yet but that she could give me something to help me. As soon as they added it to the drip, I lost consciousness. My partner realised that I was unable to talk. He looked at the drip and recognised the abbreviation for haloperidol (due to his occupation he is familiar with certain terms). By the time the drip had finished, I couldn't stand on my two feet; I couldn't string words together, it was as though I was literally drunk. As a matter of fact, I can't recall anything that happened after that. My partner told me he left me slumped on the bed to go and look for a nurse; he wanted to know why I had been administered a psychiatric medication together with an opiate... And he wanted to know why we weren't informed that such a medication was going to be administered, its consequences, etc. The different colleagues started to cover each other and finally one of them said that **the only mistake was to have left the drip bag with its name to be seen...** Meaning they thought it best to use drip bags without indication of contents (unbelievable!). We told them we wanted the medical report to state the fact they administered this medication to me. But they refused and to this day there is no record of it anywhere.

Cristina. Infanta Leonor Hospital, Vallecas (Madrid).



Mothers

•I don't know what it was that they administered whilst I was in prodromal labour but it left me confined to a chair for more than 4 hours unable to talk or move, with the same pain that I was feeling before I was given the injection. At the time I was weighing 111 kilos and in order to leave me in that state they must have injected a huge amount of something very powerful

Olaya, Valencian Region, 2015



Mothers

•*They tell me that I'm not dilating fast enough and that I'm going to be put on a drip with oxytocin. This made the pain increase considerably, of course, and I decided to drive it away with labouring cries (I'm an actress). It looks like they didn't like that and they told me they would put me on another drip with something to "calm me down". I have no idea at all what it was that they called "**the mix**", but from that point onwards I just lost complete control of myself and of what was happening. In the end, in the labouring room and **during the expulsion stage I'd fall completely unconscious and either the contraction pains would suddenly make me come to my senses or they would slap me to wake me up**, ordering me to push. I recall that during one of those "awakenings", I actually thought I was dying. Everything ended with a Kristeller manoeuvre, an episiotomy they did not even previously warn me about and a ventouse on the head of my baby..I don't know if "the mix" had haloperidol. All I know is that **I have never ever been so unconscious not even after some of my worst drunken experiences during my youth years**"*

E.F. La Fé Hospital, Valencia, 2007.



Mothers

•*“The midwife asked me if I wanted an analgesic. I answered that only if and when it did not affect my baby. I asked her what it would be and she told me it was a mixture of Dolantina and Haloperidol. I’m a doctor and I asked her if that wouldn’t have any effect on my baby once born and she said no it wouldn’t. I asked her if there was no other alternative, that I was aware dolantina caused a lot of nausea, and she said that that was the reason it was administered together with haloperidol. **To be honest I have never used haloperidol as an antiemetic**, but I had no strength to think, I wasn’t able to give it a second thought, so I accepted. It didn’t help me with the pain, I felt dizzy and afterwards my baby couldn’t latch on properly”.*

Marta M. , 2018, Hospital data not available



Mothers

•About 12 hours after labour induction began, I asked for the epidural; they spoke to me nastily saying I couldn't have one yet only to then say they could offer me a little jab which would help me. They didn't inform me of anything, about what it was or what effect it had and, of course, I never signed an informed consent. They injected it and it made me very sleepy; to the point that I would fall soundly asleep between every contraction and even remember having dreams. The pain, however, didn't go away; so it was pure torture to be woken up abruptly every time a contraction came, as though I was being beaten in order to wake up. On top of that, as I would fall asleep, whenever the pain started I wouldn't even recall what I was doing there; it was like having to mentalize myself over and over again. I had a real bad time, I lost the little control I had over my delivery which, as luck may have it, ended up being so traumatic I requested all the documents from the hospital, and after checking them I have now been able to know that (dolantina and haloperidol) are exactly the substances that were administered. During all this time I blamed myself for all of it; I thought I had fallen asleep because I hadn't slept that previous night and that my body didn't know how to react, that I wasn't up to it. Now, thanks to your work, I know it wasn't me, it was what was injected in me.

Ana V.R. O'Donnell Maternity Hospital, Madrid, 2016



Mothers

• *They injected me with that and when I was discharged, I searched in the interventions (I wanted to know what was it exactly that they had given me “to rest”, what was it that had struck me down, with bouts of hypotension and deadly shivers unable to even speak); and what a surprise when I discovered there was nothing noted down about the jab.*

MJ

• *They told me they could give me a painkiller-sedative. I felt completely drugged, wishing the effect of whatever they had given me would go away. Later on, talking to a midwife who attended me during the final stages, she told me the jab probably included haloperidol, which is what they use as an antiemetic but before then no one had informed me of that at all.*

Ana Belén GR, November 2019



Mothers

It is clear to me that I was administered dolantina and haloperidol BEFORE the epidural because when they gave me the consent for the anesthesia to sign it I couldn't see anything not even where to sign due to the effects of this pharmaceutical drugs (I do believe that in that kind of condition any signed consent would lose validity). The lines of the document were like waves on the paper and I could hardly guess where I should sign.

They said they were going to give me something for the pain; they didn't say anything about nauseas. Although, in any case, I didn't have any. The pain didn't go away, that's for sure, despite the medication they gave me. I can describe the sensation perfectly. It was like being in a rowing boat in the middle of a storm. It was, of course, impossible to stay in any other position that wasn't lying down. This together with the dizziness was stopping me from complaining about the pain which was exactly the same as before said medication had been administered.

It was, definitely, an unforgettable experience.

Irene. *Segovia* Hospital. 2010