The Bittersweet Reality of Birth Intervention

Pregnancy – Jennifer Barham-Floreani, B.App.Clin.Sci., B.Chiropractic *Pathways #47*, page 48



Talking Points

"With the escalation of autism, ADHD, allergies and obesity in children, more and more parents are questioning the impact of their choices and questioning our current orthodox health model." (p. 48) Every decision we make has an impact on our health and the health of our family. What are some decisions that are made during birth that can affect a child's health?

"Our microbiome, or our body's microbial balance, is essential to human health because the gut, brain and immune systems work intricately together... It was only relatively recently that we learned that 80% of our immune system is found in the gut. We've also discovered that there are as many neurons (nerve cells) in the gut as there are in the spinal cord, and that the gut or digestive tract acts as a completely independent site of neural processing, leading it to now be coined our "second brain."" (p. 49) New Research has linked imbalances in the gut to "not only obesity, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease, asthma and allergies, but also a host of mental and emotional disorders." (p. 49) How does a cesarean birth disrupt the gut balance of the baby? Is there a long-term impact of cesarean births?

When a baby is birthed by cesarean section, the baby isn't passing through the birth canal and their microbiome isn't seeded with the protective vaginal bacteria. This may make them more susceptible to viruses, allergies and asthma later in life. The lack of molding of the cranial (skull) bones can also be a complication of cesareans.

Colostrum and breast milk help to further establish the diversity and richness of the microbiome post birth. Breastfeeding can be a challenge post c-section because of the drowsiness the drugs cause, lack of oxytocin and the fact that sometimes a considerable amount of time before babies are placed with their mother. Mothers have also found breastfeeding to be more difficult after receiving an epidural.

Parents "should be aware of the spiraling effects that generally follow once [epidurals or pain-relieving drugs] drugs are administered, not only during the birth but over subsequent weeks and months." What are some of the things we should be aware of? Epidurals have been linked to longer labors, increased risk of an instrumental delivery (using forceps and vacuum) or cesarean birth. An oxytocin drip is often

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used to keep contractions going after an epidural has been administered. There is an increased likelihood of the mother and baby's temperature increasing which increases the risk of intervention during and post birth.

Resources

Full references for each article are available at http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/references.html

Evidence Based Birth believes in putting the evidence back in the hands of the women and families, inspiring them to make more informed decisions about their care. <u>http://evidencebasedbirth.com/</u>

"Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: The potential dangers of epidural anesthesia" by Kelly Brogan, MD<u>http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Pregnancy-Birth/wolf-in-sheeps-clothing-the-potential-dangers-of-epidural-anesthesia.html</u>

"10 Things I Wish All Pregnant Women Knew About Giving Birth" by Aviva Romm, MD <u>http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Pregnancy-Birth/10-things-i-wish-all-women-knew-about-giving-birth.html</u>

"Risks of Induced Labor" by Marcy Axness, Ph.D. <u>http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Pregnancy-</u> <u>Birth/risks-of-induced-labor.html</u>

"New Blood" by Robin Lim, CPM <u>http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/The-Outer-Womb/new-blood.html</u>

"Eyes Wide Open: Are informed mothers and autonomous childbirth the answer to our modern obstetric dilemmas" by Kelli B. Haywood, M.A.T., LCCE, CSBC <u>http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Pregnancy-Birth/eyes-wide-open-are-informed-mothers-and-autonomous-childbirth-the-answer-to-our-modern-obstetric-dilemmas.html</u>

"The Hard Science of Supporting Low-Tech Birth" by Alice Dreger

http://pathwaystofamilywellness.org/Pregnancy-Birth/the-hard-science-of-supporting-low-techbirth.html