

Pregnancy story

We did present at the Emergency Department and my daughter was pregnant.

The Emergency Department were aware of her being pregnant because there was three times or twice previously that we had taken her there with pain and stuff in the couple of weeks previous to that. I took her in on a Saturday morning and she was having like... Seizure like things were happening to her. And I explained to them that it might have been an ectopic pregnancy with twins and one in the tube.

She was in horrific pain. They were giving her Mylanta and morphine, and in absolute and total horrific pain, and they put the heart machine on her. That was clear the Mylanta wasn't working, the pain was above the morphine dose that they were giving her, so they should have done further tests and they didn't. They did not do any further tests, they were just going to keep her in hospital to observe her.

They wanted me to take her home, they took the drip off her and I dressed her, and then she had another pain and they said, 'No. I think we might leave you in and check you.'

If they hadn't, she would have died in my car.

I believe it was incompetent staff that just would not listen. The only reason the other doctor listened was he was in there to check someone else for reflux. When he heard that they were going to put her... To keep her in overnight, he said, 'If she's going in for reflux, I will check her.'

He came over and when he was asking her questions, I said to him, 'Look, I'm sorry, but I'm sure this is an ectopic pregnancy with twins.'

He said, 'Well, where's the scan? I'll have a look at it.'

I said, 'They haven't scanned her.'

He said, 'Do you mean to tell me she's been here seven hours and nobody's scanned her?'

I said, 'Yes.'

He was absolutely furious and ordered the scan straight away, and she was taken right into surgery.

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It took them seven hours and another doctor to present to take any notice of me. Finally give her a scan and it was revealed that there was three pregnancies, I guess is what you'd call them... Now, one was outside the tube, one was in the tube, and the other one was in the womb. They saved the one that was in the womb.

The pain in her chest and why she couldn't lie down was a massive blood clot sitting on her liver from the burst tube.

We were suspicious of an ectopic pregnancy two weeks before, so we brought her to the hospital. They did the scan, but they only picked up one, so they told her there was nothing wrong with her.

The following week, I took her down to her doctor, her GP. I said to him, 'Could this be an ectopic pregnancy?'

And look, the reason I thought the ectopic pregnancy is because she said she had pressure down below, and I knew that pressure had to be more than one baby.

And he said, 'I don't know.' He said, 'I would like to give her a full body scan, but I'll ring my friend up at radiology.'

So he rang him and he came back and said, 'Look that happens 1 in every 30,000. We've had our one for the year and that can't possibly be it.'

And he left it at that.

So, all the way along it was incompetence. All the way along. Even with that pain then, they never scanned her. And I actually wheeled her out of his surgery in his wheelchair coz she couldn't walk with that pain. And this all happened the following week, so nobody took her serious.

I do believe, I couldn't prove it, but I do believe that when I took her into hospital at 7 o'clock in the morning that because of her reaction and how she was, that the staff did believe that she was either on alcohol or drugs or coming down off something.

It just was not a good experience. She nearly died.

Look at the whole picture instead of just assuming that you know what is wrong with a person. And never assume first up, and especially being a Saturday morning, that the person is obviously on drugs or alcohol or coming off something. Not everybody does that.

Whatever you do, listen to the patient. Check them. See, if they are obviously a young person... The person is pregnant, you know that from the file. The mother is there with her, the mother is very concerned and the girl is stressed.

Show a bit more bedside manner, a little bit more concern and a little bit more... Investigate, even if you can't come up with anything.

Even after that, there was no counselling for her, there was not nothing. The only thing she got was, as far as counselling goes, was that, 'She was a very lucky girl and if her mother wasn't there she'd be dead.' That's all she got. If I hadn't of been there, or if I had of been out of town, that girl would of died.

She ended up with one healthy baby. She's good now, but the emotional stress is very evident. And lucky she's strong enough not to turn to drugs and alcohol to deal with it.

We are going through the process of putting the work together to take it forward and she just gets a big lump in her throat. But she sits there, quite strong, and speaks about it. But she has told me that every time she talks about it, it really stresses her.

On the anniversary the other day, she actually let a couple of balloons off for the other two, because their little souls somewhere. But the emotional stress is really, really evident. And it's 12 months later and none of us have really healed through it, and we're not going to heal until such time as we do take it that step further.

The main reason I want to take it further is that hopefully this won't happen to anybody else. It just seems like it was all for nothing if we don't do it.