

BIRTH INJURY

C Section Mistakes:

- Caesarean section (C-section) operations might seem routine. In the United States, nearly one in three women give birth by having a caesarean section operation performed. In many cases, doctors advise women to have a C-section operation for the health and well-being of both the mother and the child.
- But doctors don't always explain all the risks associated with C-sections. And when something goes wrong, medical professionals are often reluctant to admit they made a mistake that caused your birth injury.
- Our experienced birth injury attorneys can help.
- Incorrect Use of Forceps and Vacuum Extractors
- Medical professionals undergo years of training to learn how to safely deliver a baby. And as part of that training, they learn how to properly use forceps and vacuum extractors to remove a baby from inside the mother.
- Such devices can be critical, life-saving tools in an emergency. There are many situations in which doctors use this type of technology to deliver a baby, especially if the baby becomes stuck inside the mother during the delivery.
- However, these devices can be dangerous. If doctors or other medical professionals don't use them properly, severe birth injuries can occur. That's why it's important to have an experienced birth injury lawyer on your side.

RISKS OF USING PITOCIN- When administered correctly and monitored carefully, the drug works and all is well. However, when too much Pitocin is used, or when it is used for too long, the corresponding decrease in uterine blood flow may reduce the baby's oxygen to the point where permanent birth-related injuries such as cerebral palsy or hypoxic ischemic encephalopathy occur. When Pitocin is used, electronic fetal monitoring becomes absolutely necessary for both mother and child. Pitocin's primary risk to unborn babies comes from the decreases in blood supply and oxygen levels often associated with its use. When not monitored carefully, this can lead to various types of hypoxic or anoxic birth injuries, including cerebral palsy. Some of the mother-specific risks involved with the use of Pitocin include more painful contractions (something that often means taking pain medications during labor as well), uterine rupture and water intoxication. Pitocin can also cause premature laceration of the cervix or post-birth hemorrhaging.

Bell's Palsy: One of the most common types of birth injuries children can sustain is Bell's palsy. This medical term refers to a condition in which newborn children cannot move one side of their face or have little or no control over their facial muscles.

Sometimes, Bell's palsy eventually disappears or becomes milder. But other people can experience total paralysis on one side of their face. And in certain extreme cases, they can suffer permanent nerve damage or even partial or complete blindness.

Seizures and Epilepsy: Some of the most common - and most serious - birth injuries that affect newborn babies are seizures and epilepsy. Both are neurological disorders that affect the body's central nervous system. They also both often cause children to involuntarily move or shake. Sometimes, seizures due to birth injuries are temporary. Other times, such medical conditions can be permanent, including epilepsy. In either case, newborn babies can sustain serious injuries due to uncontrollable seizures. Figuring out what to do in these situations can be confusing. You might not even be aware of your rights as the parent of a child suffering from seizures due to a birth injury. That's why it's critical that you talk to an experienced birth injury attorney.

Stroke/TIA

- A stroke is caused by a disruption in the blood flow to the brain. The two most common types of strokes are ischemic strokes, which result when the blood flow to the brain is blocked by a blood clot, and hemorrhagic strokes, which result from a burst blood vessel in the brain. On many occasions, these major strokes are preceded by a small stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA). Some of the key symptoms of a TIA include transient slurred speech, transient weakness in the face or extremities, brief episodes of confusion, or transient visual disturbances. Early recognition and treatment of a small stroke or TIA can prevent a major stroke.
- When physicians fail to recognize and treat the symptoms of a TIA, and the patient suffers a devastating stroke they may have committed medical malpractice.
- Massachusetts residents who have suffered due to misdiagnosed stroke or TIA should turn into a medical malpractice attorney.
- It goes without saying that the effects of a stroke can be utterly devastating:
 - Paralysis
 - Impaired speech
 - Loss of the use of extremities
 - Cognitive impairment
 - Depression
 - Increased risk for successive strokes

However, medical malpractice in this area is not just confined to the failure to diagnose a stroke. It also encompasses the failure to properly treat or prevent a stroke. For example, Coumadin, a



TEMPUS FUGIT LAW



183 State Street, Floor 2
Boston, MA 02109



(617) 752-2371 (Main)
(617) 934-4310 (Fax)



www.tempusfugitlaw.com

blood thinning agent used by physicians to prevent blood clots, can actually result in severe brain hemorrhaging if improperly administered to a hemorrhagic stroke victim. Conversely, a patient may suffer an ischemic stroke if a physician fails to prescribe Coumadin or a similar medication to prevent blood clots from forming in certain situations.