

Maternal, Neonatal Deaths and Brain Injury

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists inquiry Each Baby Counts, examined more than 700 recent neonatal deaths and injuries. It reports that three out of every four babies may have had a different outcome, had they received different care.

This revelation has been a long time coming, and the results are not surprising, as this phenomena has been long recognised for over 20 years.

The report recently released, examined 1,136 stillbirths, neonatal deaths and brain injuries during 2015. In many of the 727 cases that could be reviewed in depth, problems with accurate assessment of foetal wellbeing during labour, and consistent issues with staff understanding and processing of complex situations, including interpreting baby heart-rate patterns, were cited as significant factors.

In his book, published in 2003, entitled “Children who do not look you in the eye, The Secrets of Autistic behaviour”, Professor Antonio Parisi, a neurophysio-pathologist, working at the University of Naples, discussed in length the prenatal causes of encephalitic disturbance in the Chapter titled Etiopathogenesis of autism, page 41. (1)

Professor Parisi, commenting, in his book, particularly concentrated on “Hypoxy (lack of oxygen) following rapid, or over lengthy labour, leading to death, or neurological effects such as autism. Hypoxy is undoubtedly the most risky cause of prenatal disturbance, despite the fact that the brains of new-born babies are less vulnerable to a lack of oxygen than those of adults. Hypoxy is also the cause of brain injury during delivery (associated with the use of forceps or suction devices)”.

Further commenting, “tonic reflux of the neck of the birth canal eases childbirth, the lack of reflux may lead to dystocic birth, but the lack is itself caused by a disorder of the foetus, so dystocia is not the sole cause of brain injury”.

“This is a common occurrence in the case of autistic children. Our research team often encounters one cause of brain injury which seems to provoke further vulnerability to a second pathogenic cause of brain injury. Most cases of brain injury seem to occur at the perinatal stage”.

“This is an extremely important finding and suggests that not enough is done to prevent brain injury during delivery in hospital maternity units”.

(1) Parisi, Antonio, Children who do not look you in the eye, The secrets of autistic behaviour. Napoli: Edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 2003. ISBN 88-8114-0597-3

Dr. Antonio Parisi, assists Dr. David Delacato at the Delacato Clinics in Sorrento and Milan for the rehabilitation of children and adults on the autistic disorder spectrum existing since the 1970's.

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