



Maternity Care and Liability

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Being [pregnant](#) and going through childbirth is a natural part of life. Women have been doing it since the beginning of mankind. In the 1900's childbirth was seen as a normal part of the life cycle and the majority of births were attended at home by midwives and occasionally by physicians. With the age of medicine and technology in Western society the use of pain medication and anesthetics has surged among pregnant women. During the baby boom generation in the 1940-50's hospital births became the norm with 80% of women giving birth while sedated or unconscious. The mother either gave birth naturally or was completely sedated and delivered her baby while unconscious.

We need to give them the support and reassurance that they have the inner strength and ability to labor and deliver without medication in the hospital setting if that is what they desire.”



Many women may wonder why go through the pain of [childbirth](#) if you don't have to. Having labor pain is different than having pain from a medical condition or a surgery. Pregnancy and childbirth is not necessarily a

sickness or ailment. Like with any kind of medication there are associated risks. Some of these risks include:

- Can cause episodes of low blood pressure: this is a problem because it can reduce.
- Some [women](#) may not achieve complete pain relief and may still feel contractions on one side or the other or have a “window” that they continue to feel pain.
- After delivery, a spinal headache may occur (often compared to a migraine)
- The labor may slow down after epidural placement and may require [Pitocin](#) which increase strength and frequency of contraction.
- May experience side effects of an epidural including shivering, ringing of ears, back aches, and soreness where needle was inserted.
- Increase risk for an instrumental delivery (i.e. use of vacuum or forceps) because of the lack of feeling the urge to push.
- Interferes with mobility – will have to stay in bed and most likely be catheterized.