

MRF Media contact Weybridge, Surrey

Marisa Baker

Our beautiful baby Elouisa was born on Friday 28 December 2007, weighing 6 pounds 5 oz. She was our second child and, like her then 19 month old sister Amelia, was born by c-section at The Portland Hospital in London.

I became increasingly concerned on New Year's Day. The local midwife was supposed to visit but telephoned instead. I voiced my concerns, but was told a degree of floppiness was normal and 'as long as she was not grey' she was probably fine. At this point my main concern was that Elouisa was not getting enough milk and was possibly dehydrated. In desperation I gave her a bottle of Aptamil and called a private midwife recommended by my obstetrician.

Midwife Arezou arrived within the hour. She examined Elouisa and stressed that I should call her immediately should my concerns increase. That afternoon I woke Elouisa for her 2pm feed and her head lolled back like a doll – she had absolutely no interest in feeding. I called Arezou who suggested we get medical attention, and we bundled Ella and her sister off to hospital.

Upon arrival, Ella was rushed through and assessed. We were advised Ella should stay on a ward for the night - at that time, awaiting blood test results, they thought she was dehydrated, however they told us protocol meant they would treat her for meningitis just in case. This early action saved our baby's life.

Ella was treated for meningitis with antibiotics. She responded well and after 10 days in hospital she was sufficiently recovered to be discharged. Thankfully Ella is now a thriving 21 month old. She is talking, running and a complete joy. St. Georges were so thrilled (and a little shocked!) by her amazing recovery. It transpired these suggested I had had Strep B. I had never heard of this before and was never knowingly tested for it during my antenatal care.

Marisa says: “My daughter Elouisa suffered from deadly GBS meningitis in 2007. I believe that prompt diagnosis and treatment saved her life, so it’s vitally important to be aware of the symptoms, as just a few hours can make all the difference. I’d also encourage pregnant women to be aware of the test available to see if they are GBS carriers. Go to www.meningitis.org or call 080 8800 3344 for more information.”

Willing to do: Press, Radio (only pre-recorded).
Contact Marisa Baker through MRF – 01454 281811