

Response to 2004 Waterbirth Review by Maine Med Group

Tess G McKenney

tess@mckenneyfamily.freeserve.co.uk

The authors of Underwater Birth: Missing the Evidence or Missing the Point? theorize that hyponatremia can be caused by swallowing tub water during birth. They are then intrigued to find a photograph "showing an infant's face delivering, with the mouth wide open" and use it to support their theory.

Though, untrained in obstetrics and pediatrics I applaud scientific observation and fully support medical research and enquiry. Therefore, I am deeply concerned when I read this, and many other, medical professionals' reports of waterbirth. They present flawed evidence and logic, out of context of overall obstetric risk. Then there are all those connecting and concluding sentences stuffed with bias, and I now find inaccurate observation.

The authors saw what they wanted to see. They also looked at the photo out of context of both the text and other photographs. That infant is my first born child. I have the original photograph beside me. E-mail me and I'll send you a highresolution color copy. The baby's mouth is shut. He was born weighing ten and a half pounds with no complications, and is now assessed in the top 2 percentile intellectually. The birth was so good I did it again twice the same way.