

Spokespeople

Jenny McCarthy has become a prominent spokesperson for vaccine injury and dietary and other alternative treatments [1]. However, in her book *Belly Laughs* she described the traumatic anoxic birth of her son, Evan [2]. After a difficult period of second stage pushing, vacuum extraction was attempted, and finally she had an emergency C-section:

“My husband was at my side, and I could see the terror in his face as we heard the nurse shouting out that the baby’s heart rate had dropped in half. Thirty seconds later they pulled the baby out and unwound the cord that was wrapped around his neck. . . They whisked the baby off to the side of the room in a panic. I’ve come to find out that with C-sections, they usually show you your baby over the curtain and tell you the sex. They didn’t do that for me, and I guessed that something was wrong. Tears were streaming down my face. I looked at my husband and asked him what was wrong. He looked just as panicked as I did and said, ‘I don’t know, honey.’

A nurse moved out of the way, and I saw my baby lying on a table, blue and not moving. People were all around, giving him oxygen, slapping him, saying, ‘Come on, little man, breathe. . .

All of a sudden I heard a ‘waa waa.’ He was crying! I wanted to jump up and down and scream, but I was still tied to the table. My husband walked over to the baby and ran back to me to tell me how cute he was. . .” [2, pp159-160]

Her experience was similar to mine, except I did not have a cesarean and Conrad did not have the cord around his neck. Conrad was pale white, and whisked across the room where he could be resuscitated with oxygen. Both Evan and Conrad had the umbilical cord cut immediately so that they could be taken across the room for resuscitation. I described Conrad’s birth at <http://www.conradsimon.org/Conrad.html#birth> .

References

1. McCarthy J (2007) *Louder than Words*, a mother’s journey in healing autism.
2. McCarthy J (2004) *Belly Laughs*, the naked truth about pregnancy and childbirth.