



HIE and Medical Malpractice: An Unfortunate Connection

Fortunately, most babies are healthy when they are born. A small segment of the population are born with serious health needs. One of the diagnoses that can require intensive care is hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy (HIE), which occurs in between 2 to 9 out of 1,000 births. It's important for parents to know they have options in getting their child the care they need.

Children with HIE experienced oxygen deprivation at birth. Because of this, they may have some form of brain damage and have special needs. There's no way around it, unfortunately - caring for a child with special needs can be expensive. Private intensive treatment, occupational and An physical therapy, special equipment, and attendant care can all add up.

Unfortunately a significant cause of HIE is medical malpractice. Nobody wants to believe that their OB/GYN or another medical practitioner may have made a mistake, but, according to new [research](#), medical malpractice is the [third leading cause of death in the U.S.](#), claiming 251,000 lives a year.

What does this mean for parents whose children have HIE? It may be little consolation to hear that their child's injury was avoidable, but if medical malpractice was a factor in their child's injury, they can talk to an attorney to figure out what went wrong to help kickstart the healing process. Furthermore, the money from a successful lawsuit can then cover costs of care that insurance might not pay for. In many cases, this can mean the child can get more therapy, more intensive treatment, and have more resources to help live their lives to the fullest.

Our special education system in the U.S. does help provide children with special needs with certain services, but that support goes away once the child graduates - and there are very, very few things to replace that support network. The funds from a lawsuit can help defray the cost of living for a child with disabilities - they could go towards an accessible home, a modified accessible van with a ramp, and help with care when the child's parents begin to age.

It's never a pleasant thing to think that your child was hurt by a doctor's mistake. A lawsuit can't mitigate their injury. But it can do the next best thing - make sure they will have the best opportunity to succeed in life by providing them with the resources they need to maximize their abilities. And that's worth picking up the phone for.