

## **The Spurrell Family Part 10: Wavey and Laura**

At 38 weeks pregnant, Wavey awakened Alan with “Alan, wake up! My water has broken; we need to get to the hospital!” By the time Wavey got to the case room she was having regular strong contractions at three minutes apart. The nurse checked her cervix and told her she was 4cm. Wavey had not expected to go early as she went the full 40 weeks on Mark.

The nurse offered Wavey something for pain but she felt she could do without it. The family doctor was called by the case room at 3 a.m. and arrived at 7 a.m. the next morning, expecting Wavey to be ready to push. Upon examination, however, she found her to be still 4 cm and there were some worrisome findings. The family doctor decided to consult the obstetrician who advised Wavey she should consider having a caesarean section. There was a couple of anxious hours waiting for the OR to be readied the nurses but the operation went well and the baby girl, Laura, was determined to be healthy at birth.

Ten days later, Wavey checks back with the family doctor with Laura. She is being breast feed and appears to be doing well. She is slightly jaundiced but the doctor is reassured because Laura is stooling frequently and her weight is back up to birth weight from a low at discharge.

Wavey, however, is not feeling well. She has a fever and chills associated with nausea, vomiting and fatigue. The right nipple started giving her problems shortly after getting home from the hospital, with breast swelling, and she preferentially fed on the left side. The doctor examined the breast, ordered some blood work, and provided some treatment advice. When Wavey returned after 10 days, her breast had settled nicely and she was feeding comfortably on both sides. Some of her blood work was low and she was started on Iron tablets.

At the next post-partum visit Wavey brings 4 year old son Mark with her. For the past week or so, everyone, except the baby, has had the flu. Everyone is getting over it but Mark is still coughing, especially at night-time. He is eating well, seems to have energy, and does not have a temperature. Wavey wonders if antibiotics would help. The doctor examines Mark, discusses potential treatments with Wavey including using an inhaler for the next few days.

At her six-week check up, Wavey’s blood work is normal and she he is feeling well apart from intense pain and bright rectal bleeding with defecation since starting iron. Subsequent to examinations, the doctor prescribes a topical preparation for a fissure and informs Wavey that if this fails to work she might need another form of treatment.

On the way out of the office, Wavey asks the doctor if he knows of a good fertility clinic. She explains that her neighbour Darlene has twice had artificial insemination by a local clinic but has not conceived – she wonders if she might have an undiagnosed fertility problem? The doctor says he will be happy to see Darlene and make the appropriate referral(s).