

## **MRF Media contact Harefield, Southampton**

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**Marie Cavie.**

### **Harefield mum warns: Babies under one hit hardest by meningitis and septicaemia.**

Marie Cavie from Harefield lost her daughter Sophie to GBS meningitis in September 2007. She was only 6 days old.

Sophie was born at 3.20am on Sunday. She was discharged and went home with mum Marie a few hours later. On Monday, Marie noticed that Sophie didn't like being touched. A midwife said she was fine as long as she was feeding.

On Tuesday morning a midwife was unable to visit but phoned Marie. Marie replied saying she had concerns that Sophie hadn't been feeding and seemed a little 'windy'. By 2.30pm Sophie was ratty and angry, so Marie took her to hospital. A doctor assessed Sophie and said she was 'very stiff' so could they do a lumbar puncture? She was taken for tests. Marie came back to the hospital on Wednesday to hear that Sophie had stopped breathing several times over night and had been fitting. As Marie was visiting Sophie she had a severe fit. She was given morphine and put on a ventilator.

On Friday Morning after further tests Marie was told Sophie had severe brain damage and that she would be lucky to make it through the night. Medical staff stopped all medication and Marie made the decision to turn off Sophie's ventilator.

Marie was never made aware of the risk of GBS meningitis, and the simple test which is available for mothers-to-be which can show whether a mother is a carrier of GBS bacteria.

Marie says: "Losing a daughter to GBS meningitis is heartbreaking. If only I'd known that there was a test which could have easily highlighted whether I was a GBS. Things could have been so different. Babies under one are 38 times more susceptible to meningitis, and 2 babies die every week from the diseases. It's vitally important to be aware that there is a test for pregnant women to detect GBS, and to be aware of the symptoms of meningitis and septicaemia. That's why I'm supporting national meningitis awareness week."

Willing to appear in: Press, Radio, TV  
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