

Kaycee Sandlin
FREESTYLE ESSAY

I have had three c-sections, two of which were scheduled. With my first child, my son Nolan who is five now, I went into labor at 38 weeks. I was at home sleeping and around 11:30pm I rolled over and felt a pop and when I stood up there was just a gush of fluid. When the contractions started getting bad, we went to the hospital. While I was being triaged the nurse did a test to check to see if my water broke and told me that the stick came back negative and they sent us home. When we got home the contractions were so unbearable for the next few hours, so we went back where they told me I was 6 cm dilated. I was given an epidural and for the next 18-19 hours I was in labor. When I started pushing, it got to a point where there was so much pain in my ribs that I physically could do no more, so we decided to go ahead with a c-section. When we got to the operating room, they started trying to put the spinal in, but I was having contractions throughout this so that process lasted about 20 minutes, and I was jabbed in the spine about 8 times. Finally, though at 9:19pm on February 24th, 2016 my son Nolan was born.

My second pregnancy was a scheduled c-section. This was a completely different experience than I went through the first time. Instead of wondering when I would go into labor, I knew the exact date I would meet my baby. Unless of course I went into labor early. On the day of my c-section we woke up early got my son, who was three at this point, ready to go to my parents' house, and left for the hospital to be there for 7:30am. While waiting to be brought back to the operating room another woman in labor ended up having to have an emergency c-section which meant mine was being moved out a bit. I ended up not being brought to the operating room until about 2:00pm and my daughter Raelynn was born at 2:53pm on March 14th, 2019. When she was born, they let us do skin to skin on the way to my room but then decided to bring her to the nursery for about an hour as her breathing was a little fast (She was ok they just wanted to monitor for a bit). So, like I said before for 6 hours or so before my c-section I was in triage on a very uncomfortable stretcher, and I was so hungry. So hungry in fact that the second (and I mean the SECOND) I got back to my room I called my mom and told her I was out of surgery and made her bring me a sandwich and fries. And it was the best sandwich and fries I have ever eaten.

My third and last c-section was just last year. My daughter Kiley (who's due date was Halloween day! How cool is that?) was born on October 28th, 2020 at 10:36am. During this c-section I also had my tubes removed which I feel brought me way more pain with recovery than when I just had my first two. There were times where I was in so much pain during my recovery that I literally could not move or I would just get intense burning, searing pain. There were also times when I couldn't even lift my feet up into bed, or even roll onto my side. I thought the pain was never going to go away. But it did and now I have three crazy kids and no more on the way thank god.