

Your

GOOD HEALTH

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Why couldn't Dana stop itching during her third pregnancy?

MUMS know BEST

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Plonking myself down on the sofa, I said, 'Time to relax!'

Two weeks away from the due date of my third child, I was enjoying the final moments of pregnancy.

But as I tried to get comfortable, I couldn't settle.

An uncontrollable itching ravaged the soles of my feet, palms, legs and back.

I scratched like mad, but my nails weren't cutting it.

So, I grabbed a fork and went to town for hours.

Over the next few days, the itching spread all over my body and became unbearable.

During my weekly midwife visit, I explained what was going on.

'Your blood tests have come back normal,' she explained.

'We've tested for eczema too, and it's not that.'

In the following days, my symptoms persisted and I became incredibly thirsty.

But no amount of water would satisfy me.

Shortly after, I had another midwife appointment where

my bloods were taken before I was sent back home.

But a couple of hours later, I received a sudden call.

'You need to get to the hospital immediately,' my midwife fretted. 'We need to deliver the baby.'

Panicked, Mum picked up my two eldest kids while my sister drove me to hospital.

'I don't even have my overnight bag!' I sobbed.

I felt so scared and wasn't expecting to give birth that day.

I felt myself going in and out of consciousness, until it all went black...

When I woke, I was in a hospital gown, covered in wires with tubes coming out of me.

'What happened?' I cried.

Then I looked down and noticed my tummy was flatter.

'Where's my baby?!' I panicked.

'Don't worry, he's doing OK,' the doctor explained. 'You've had a C-section.'

The doctor went on to explain that I had suffered from acute fatty liver of pregnancy



as soon as possible.

'It usually only happens in first pregnancies,' the doctor added.

Baby Kylan was in the neonatal unit to help him with his breathing.

It was a few days before I could meet him.

When nurses wheeled me to his cot it was so emotional.

'My little fighter,' I said.

Ten days later, we were both able to go home.

Recovery was difficult at first, as I didn't have any sensation in my feet so found it difficult to get around.

However, I'm now able to walk again.

Kylan is one and we're in the process of getting his liver and blood tested for liver problems.

I want to raise awareness of liver conditions.

It's not known what caused my AFLP, and I believe it's really important to show expectant mums that it can happen during any pregnancy.

If you ever notice anything out of the ordinary when you are expecting, never ignore it.

After all, mums know best.

● To find out more, visit britishlivertrust.org.uk



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