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'Posh' versus 'Push' childbirth

Victoria Beckham has had her fourth C-section. Was it one too many?

By Victoria Lambert

So how many C-sections is too many? When Victoria Beckham proved that she was once again too Posh to push with the safe arrival of baby Harper Seven last week, her fourth child delivered by Caesarean, you could probably hear the cries of horror from the moon.



Victoria Beckham with newborn daughter Harper

With Caesareans rising to 24 per cent of delivered births in the UK, and more than 30 per cent in some parts of London, there is no doubt interventional delivery has become established both as a practice – and as a controversy.

There is nothing surer to raise the hackles of certain commentators than figures which point to a rise in Caesareans.

Last week, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) published a report into maternity services which seemed to suggest that fewer in-patients and more home beanbags was desirable – with the clear implication that, in their view, the number of C-sections and other forms of intervention have got out of hand.

David Richmond, vice president of RCOG and author of the report, said that most women could have their babies in a local birthing centre, “without a doctor going anywhere near them”.