




# Self- Inflicted Cesarean Section

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**A pregnant Mexican  
Woman performs C-section  
On herself  
With kitchen knife  
And the woman gave birth  
To a healthy baby boy**

- ▶ In March 2000
- ▶ **Ines Ramirez Perez** The mother, a 40-year-old
- ▶ and
- ▶ her son **Orlando Ruiz Ramirez**,
- ▶ in their home in a rural area
- ▶ with no running water and electricity.
- ▶ The nearest hospital was eight hours away.
- ▶ in the town of Rio Talea,
- ▶ Mexico.
- ▶ from the state of Oaxaca





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- ▶ She has given birth to seven kids before Orlando,
  - ▶ Her last son, and didn't face any problems except for the baby that had died inside her as her midwife told her she needed a cesarean And
  - ▶ Can't give birth naturally.....
  - ▶ Sadly, it was too late, and the baby passed away.

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- ▶ After losing a previous baby girl
  - ▶ The woman wasn't about to lose another child.

# Alone


- ▶ Alone in her one-room cabin high in the mountains of southern Mexico,
- ▶ Ines Ramirez Perez felt the pounding pains of a child insistent on entering the world.





- ▶ The sun had set hours ago.
- ▶ The nearest clinic was 80km away over rough roads, and
- ▶ Her husband, her only assistant with her previous 6 births was drinking at a cantina.
- ▶ She had no phone and neither did the cantina.



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- ▶ "I couldn't stand the pain anymore," she said.
  - ▶ "And if my baby was going to die, then I decided I would have to die, too.
  - ▶ But if he was going to grow up,
  - ▶ I was going to see him grow up, and I was going to be with my child.
  - ▶ I thought that God would save both our lives."



- ▶ She sent Benito, her 8-year-old son to buy a kitchen knife
- ▶ To ensure that it is new and sharp enough to cut through her skin.




- ▶ At midnight,
- ▶ after 12 hours of continual pain,
- ▶ By the light of a single dim bulb
- ▶ Ramírez sat down on a low wooden bench and
- ▶ Drank three small glasses of hard liquor.





- ▶ She then used a 15 cm kitchen knife
- ▶ To cut open her abdomen by her index and thumb pressure on the knife..
- ▶ In a total of three attempts.
- ▶ Ramírez cut through her skin in a 17 cm vertical line several centimeters
- ▶ To the right of her navel,
- ▶ Starting near the bottom of the ribs and ending near the pubic area.
- ▶ Ramirez sawed through skin, fat and muscle






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- ▶ After operating on herself for an hour,
  - ▶ She reached inside her uterus and Pushing aside her internal organs, she searched around inside and
  - ▶ Pulled out her son.
  - ▶ Luckily, the baby cried, and appeared healthy,
  - ▶ But Inés's distress was just beginning.
  - ▶ Inés cut the umbilical cord with a pair of scissors before she put her organs back in place.

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- ▶ Became unconscious.
  - ▶ After regaining consciousness
  - ▶ She used clothes to bandage her wound, and
  - ▶ Sent one of her older sons to find help

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- ▶ Asked her 8-year-old son, Benito, to run for help.
  - ▶ Several hours later, the village health assistant and a second man found Ramírez conscious and alert, along with her live baby.

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- ▶ The local nurse first stitched the wound with
  - ▶ A sewing needle and
  - ▶ A cotton thread.

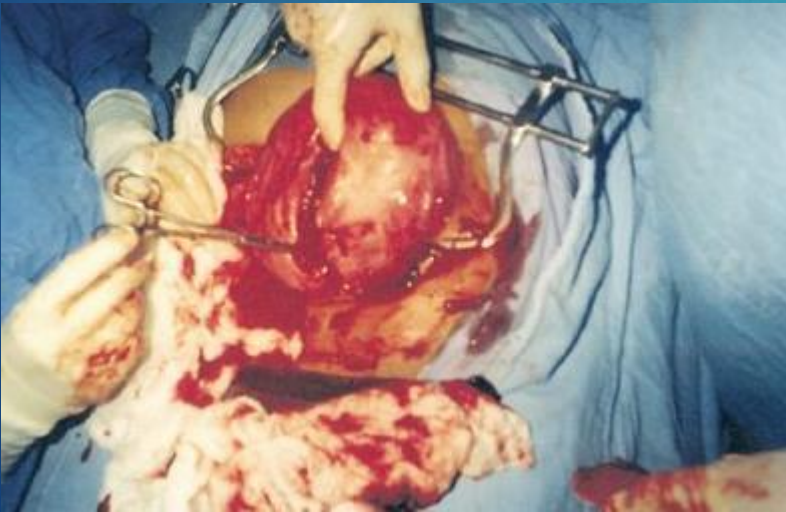


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- ▶ The two men lifted mother and child onto a thin **straw mat**,
  - ▶ lugged them up horse paths to the town's only road,
  - ▶ To local health center



- ▶ Then to the nearest hospital,
- ▶ Eight hours away by car.
- ▶ For further treatment.

- ▶ Sixteen hours thereafter she underwent
- ▶ Surgical exploration and
- ▶ Uterine repair and
- ▶ Repair of the incision site.



- ▶ On the seventh post-operative day,
- ▶ She underwent a second surgery to repair complications resulting from damage to her intestines incurred during her C-section.





- ▶ She was released from the hospital on the tenth day post-surgery, and went on to make a complete recovery.



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- ▶ Today the baby Orlando Ruiz Ramirez,. And
  - ▶ Ines Ramirez is
  - ▶ Recognized internationally
  - ▶ As **a modern miracle:**
  - ▶ She is believed to be the only woman known to have performed a successful Caesarean-section on herself.