Care after swallowing a button battery

Children's Emergency Department

Information for Patients

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Introduction

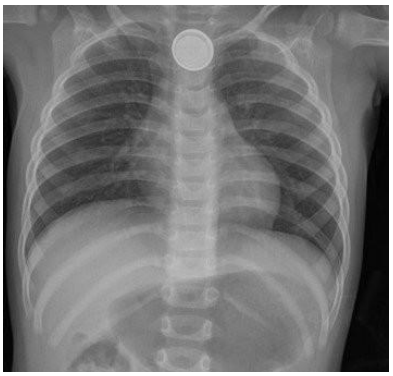
You have been seen today in the Emergency Department as you/your child have swallowed a button battery. Even though it is still inside of you, hospital staff have decided that you are well enough to go home but that you may need a further follow up. This leaflet will give you more information about your care.

Why are button batteries so dangerous?

When button batteries touch bodily fluids they make a chemical called caustic soda. This is a strong chemical (alkali). It can burn through tissues in the body. Even batteries that have no charge can cause harm. This is why it is an emergency if a button battery is swallowed and gets stuck. Button batteries put in the nose or ear must also be removed urgently.

Button batteries can cause serious damage within a few hours if they get stuck. If the battery keeps moving through the tummy (stomach) and bowel it should come out without causing any problems. You have had an X-ray to check where the button battery is inside you.







Will I need further tests?

If the battery is in your tummy (stomach) you will need a follow up X-ray, 6 to 12 hours after going home. This follow up X-ray is very important so that we can make sure that the battery has moved into your bowel.

You do not need to check your poo to try to find the battery as you will not be able to find it (unless you push the poo through a sieve. We do not advise this!).

Your follow up X-ray is: Time:_____ Date: _____

Please return to the Emergency Department where you were seen. We will be expecting you.

What should I look out for?

Return to the Emergency Department **where you were seen** right away if you:

- see blood in any sick (vomit) or poo.
- have tummy (abdominal) or chest pain.
- have concerns about a change in eating patterns, for example, not wanting to eat or drink.

This advice should be followed for 4 weeks after the button battery has been swallowed.

More information on button batteries

www.capt.org.uk/button-batteries-understanding-the-risks

Contact details

If you have any concerns, you can call the NHS helpline on 111 for advice.

Giving us your feedback

We would love to get some feedback on your visit today. Use your smart phone to scan this QR code to go to our online feedback survey form. Or, you can go to the feedback form on our website: https://www.uhleicester.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/support/feedback-complaints/friends-family-test/

Health information and support is available at www.nhs.uk or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice
Visit www.uhleicester.nhs.uk for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals.
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact uhl-tr.informationforpatientsmailbox@nhs.net

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إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أُخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل
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If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email uhl-tr.equalitymailbox@nhs.net

We are a research hospital and you may be asked to take part in research

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