



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA

## Button/Disc Batteries

### Choking and Poison Risk

In the last five years approximately 100 children presented to Princess Margaret Hospital Emergency Department as a result of ingesting button / disc batteries.

#### What is the risk?

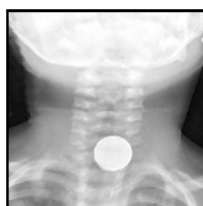
- Button batteries can become stuck in the oesophagus and become a choking hazard.
- Battery that stay in the oesophagus for more than an hour begin to burn through the surrounding tissue.
- This can cause irreversible damage and scarring.
- Button batteries can be mistaken for coins in x-ray, leading to increase exposure.



#### Button Battery Safety?

Button batteries can be found in a variety of products throughout the home, including:

- Watches
  - Remote Controls
  - Hearing Aids
  - Singing Greeting Cards
  - Flashing Toys
  - Toys
  - Games
- Typically children's toys have secured battery covers, however other products may have more easily accessible batteries.
  - Be aware of these products and keep them away from young children.
  - When storing batteries away for recycling, make sure they are in a secure location such as a lockable drawer or container until they are ready to be taken for recycling.



**Poisons Information Line: 13 11 26**



Typically when swallowed a button battery will pass through the body without any complications. However if one gets lodged in the throat there is the potential for some serious injury to occur.

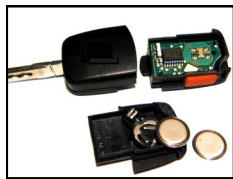
**If you suspect your child has ingested a button battery:**

- Check and clear the airways. If the battery is stuck in the throat there could be a threat to breathing
- If the battery can't be removed and breathing is normal call the **Poisons Information Centre - 13 11 26** immediately
- Don't give food or drink and don't induce vomiting
- Seek medical attention immediately
- \* Button batteries may also cause permanent injury when they are placed in the nose or the ears.
- \* DO NOT use nose or ear drops until the person has been examined by a physician.

Information supported by

- <http://www.poison.org/battery/>

- The Hazard Posed by Disc Batteries: from Clinical Concern to Corporate Action; a Collaborative Effort: (PS3) *Dr Ruth Barker, Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit*



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KIDSAFE WA INFORMATION LINE

(08) 9340 8509 or 1800 802 244 (Free Call)

[www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)

**child safety is no accident**