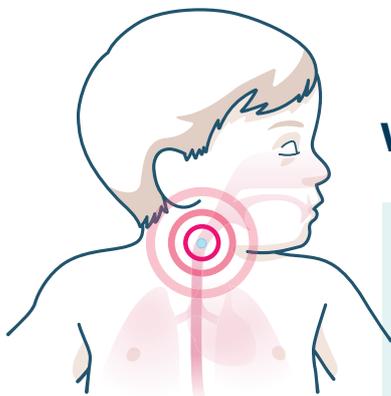
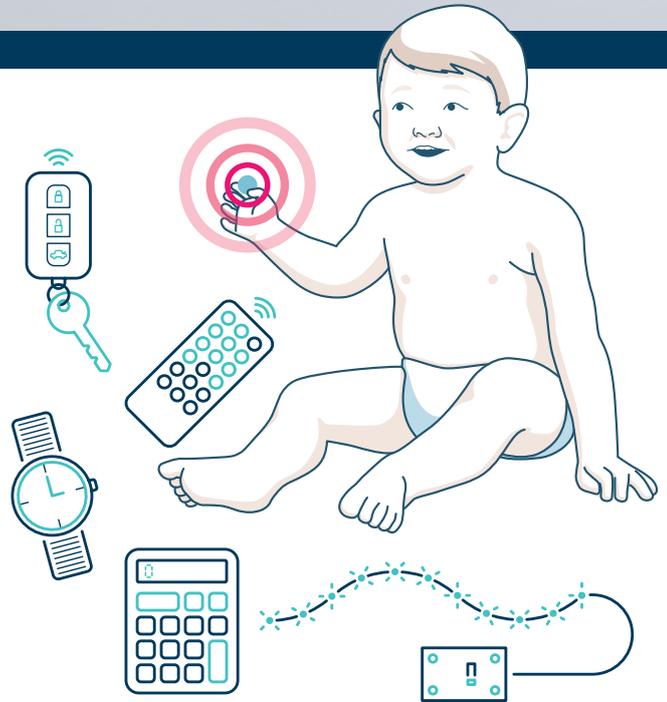




# The Dangers of Button Batteries

## What is a button battery?

- Button Batteries can be found in electronic devices, such as remote controls, calculators, LED lights, watches and key fobs
- Swallowing a button battery, known as button battery ingestion (BBI), can cause significant harm in children and there are an increasing number of BBI cases worldwide
- Most BBI incidents in children take place at home and occur in those below 6 years of age
- The shiny surface of the battery can be very appealing for a child



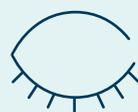
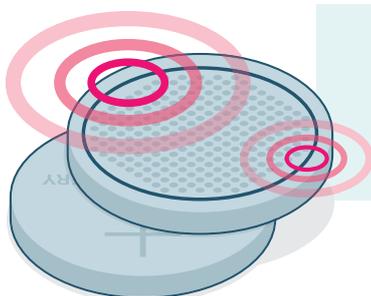
## Why are button batteries dangerous?



BBI can lead to life-threatening complications and death if not identified early and dealt with quickly, as damage can occur within 2 hours



Batteries in the throat typically pose the highest risk of complications in children



Most problems occur after unwitnessed ingestions, as symptoms are not specific to BBI - considering the possibility of BBI when your child displays unexplained symptoms is vital

# How do you know if your child has swallowed a button battery?



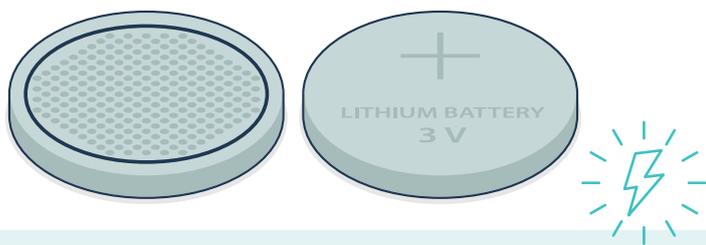
Most **WITNESSED** ingestions present with:

- Vomiting
- Drooling
- Swallowing difficulty/pain
- Irritability
- Coughing
- High-pitched, wheezing sound when breathing
- Shortness of breath



Most **UNWITNESSED** ingestions present with:

- Vomiting or coughing up blood
- Black, tar-like, sticky faeces
- Abdominal pain
- Weight loss
- Chest pain
- Cough
- High-pitched, wheezing sound when breathing
- Hoarseness
- Fever



## How can you prevent button battery ingestion?



Identify which devices use button batteries in your home



Do not leave discarded button batteries around the home – take waste batteries to a collection point or at least store them out of sight and reach of young children



Securely fasten the battery compartment after replacing a button battery

## What should you do if you suspect your child has swallowed a button battery?



Seek immediate medical attention at a hospital emergency room. If possible, take the appliance containing the battery or the original product packaging



Do not let your child eat or drink



Do not induce vomiting

The advice within this guide is based on the following paper: de Ridder L, *et al.* Diagnosis, Management, and Prevention of Button Battery Ingestion in Childhood: A European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology and Nutrition Position Paper. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2021;73(1):129-136. Available at: [https://journals.lww.com/jpgn/Fulltext/2021/07000/Diagnosis\\_Management\\_and\\_Prevention\\_of\\_Button.27.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jpgn/Fulltext/2021/07000/Diagnosis_Management_and_Prevention_of_Button.27.aspx) Information has also been sourced from the European Portable Battery Association (EPBA) 'Button batteries: out of reach, out of danger' website: <https://buttonbatteryingestion.com/en>

For more information and guidance on button battery ingestion, please visit/watch:  
1. Child Accident Prevention Trust (CAPT) website: <https://www.capt.org.uk/button-battery-safety>  
2. EPBA video: <https://youtu.be/nwLLFJUcphw/>