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Mystery Illness Found In Common Household Products

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More children are ending up in the hospital with symptoms that look like the flu, but it's not the flu and it's confused some doctors.

The cause of the mystery illness is actually found in many common household products.

Young children can turn anything into a toy, even a remote control. Some remotes use lithium batteries, which can get stuck in a child's digestive track if they swallow it. In a matter of hours the battery creates an electrical current and burns through tissue, but it can be tough for doctors to figure out what is making a child ill.

"Children will have non-specific symptoms such as a cough, a fever, they're more irritable," said Dr. Kris Jatana of Nationwide Children's Hospital. "Symptoms that are consistent with what you see in a common viral illness with children."

The National Capital Poison Center found an almost sevenfold increase in battery ingestions over the past 25 years. At least 13 children have died from eating lithium batteries.



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