

BREAKING NEWS: Ron Paul scales back presidential campaign

Many kids injured after swallowing button batteries

By Michelle Healy, USA TODAY

Updated 17h 55m ago

Recommend 100

8

2



Reprints & Permissions

Videos you may be interested in



trans cheerleaders fin...

ROCKS BRITN

h JU nfl

Most Popular

Stories

- 'Newsweek' cover: Obama 'first gay...
- Obama ad blasts Romney's Bain career
- Black churches conflicted on Obama's gay
- Sophia and Jacob are most popular U.S. b:
- Authorities find 49 bodies dumped on...

Videos

- Raw Video: Activists: Syrian forces shell R
- Raw Video: Crews search crash site in Ne
- Raw Video: Thousands protest austerity in

Photos

- Baby animals spring up at zoos
- Editorial Cartoons
- Black pastors weigh gay marriage

Most Popular E-mail Newsletter

Sign up to get:

Top viewed stories, photo galleries and commu the day

Coin-sized button batteries power dozens of items in and around our homes, from remote controls to cameras to singing greeting cards. They also accounted for 84% of the battery-related hospital emergency department visits by children from 1990 to 2009, and once ingested, they can be life-threatening, a new study says.

There were nearly 66,000 battery-related emergency department visits by children under 18 during the 20-year-span, and the annual number more than doubled — from 2,591 to 5,525 — by 2009, says the study, reported today in the journal *Pediatrics*. More than 75% of all battery-related hospital visits involved children 5 or younger.

The increase in emergency department visits coincides

Nationwide Children's Hospital

Button batteries can perforate the esophagus and create alkaline burns.

Sponsored Links

Woman is 63 But Looks 32

Mom publishes facelift trick that angered doctors...
ConsumerLifestyles.org

LifeLock® Official Site

Protect your Family's Identity. Get LifeLock Ultimate™
LifeLock.com

"The New Skinny Pill"

Can this natural raspberry compound really make you thin?
www.Post-Sentinel.com

[Buy a link here](#)

with the introduction of the 3-volt 20-millimeter lithium battery into the marketplace, says researcher [Gary Smith](#), director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. This newer battery "is more powerful and can cause tissue damage much more quickly," Smith says.

In most cases when a button battery is ingested, it is eliminated in the stool, he says. If it lands with its negative pole in contact with tissue fluids in the lining of the esophagus, however, a microcurrent can generate hydroxide, resulting in alkaline burns and perforations of the esophagus in less than two hours, he says. Complications including fatal aorta damage have been documented. "Often there are no symptoms early on, so it's important that an X-ray be taken as soon as possible if

ingestion is suspected," Smith says.

"Individual manufacturers have stepped up to make their devices that contain button batteries more resistant to child access," Smith adds. "Parents need to make sure their children cannot get access, by taping battery compartments shut and keeping loose batteries out of children's reach."

For more information about [reprints & permissions](#), visit our [FAQ's](#). To report corrections and clarifications, contact Standards Editor [Brent Jones](#). For publication consideration in the newspaper, send comments to letters@usatoday.com. Include name, phone number, city and state for verification. To view our corrections, go to corrections.usatoday.com.

Posted 14h 44m ago | Updated 17h 55m ago



Most popular right now:
 'Newsweek' cover: Obama 'first gay president'



Sign up for USA TODAY E-mail news

More from USATODAY

Alabama boy charged in killing of girl found on rope *USATODAY.com in News*

Tim Tebow will play on special teams for the New York Jets *USATODAY.com in The Huddle*

Misha Collins of Supernatural isn't just an angel on TV *USATODAY.com in Tech*

Poll: 51% agree with Obama's endorsement of gay marriage *USATODAY.com in News*

Obama's day: A focus on students and women *USATODAY.com in The Oval*

More from the web

How many gallons of gasoline would it take to charge an iPhone? *ExxonMobil's Perspectives*

Another Tanning Mom Charged With Endangering Her Kids *The Stir By CafeMom*

Bill Maynard's toilet seat woes *BBC*

Trump tower falters *Bankrate.com*

3 Classic Cruise Ship Rip-Offs to Avoid *AARP.org*

[?]

USA TODAY is now using Facebook Comments on our stories and blog posts to provide an enhanced user experience. To post a comment, log into Facebook and then "Add" your comment. To report spam or abuse, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box. To find out more, read the [FAQ](#) and [Conversation Guidelines](#).