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Based on their findings, the CPSC is encouraging the electronics industry and battery manufacturers to design warnings and industry standards to limit serious injuries and deaths due to button batteries. They also believe that public health experts and health-care providers can educate parents to leave button batteries and products that have button batteries in a place that is not accessible to children. Parents of children who ingest batteries need to pursue medical attention immediately as delays in diagnosis and treatment can possibly cause serious problems or death.

"That's what's so scary about these, you can get damage so quickly," commented Alison Tothy, director of pediatric emergency medicine at the University of Chicago, in the ABC News article. "But how many parents bring their kids to the emergency department for a little belly pain, but 8, 12, 14 hours later they are still having belly pain and starting to vomit...and there is even more damage that has been done because battery has sat there for 24 hours."

A study published in Pediatrics in May also reported similar results. Between 1990 and 2009, there was an increase in the number of children who had emergency department visits due to ingesting batteries. Over 65,000 emergency department visits involved kids age 18 and under.

"We live in a world designed by adults for the convenience of adults, and the safety of children is often not considered," stated study author Gary Smith, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, in the ABC News article.

There is also legislation currently underway to address the possible risk of ingesting button cell batteries unintentionally. Legislators are proposing that child-resistant battery compartment closures be included in all consumer products that use button cell batteries, warnings be created on the dangers of ingesting button cell batteries, and child-resistant packing for batteries.

The authors noted that there were a few limitations in the report. One, the NEISS case narratives were brief and didn't include detailed information unless there was a follow-up investigation. Two, the report didn't include incidents that went untreated or cases that were treated in doctors' officers or outpatient facilities.

Source: Connie K. Ho for redOrbit.com - Your Universe Online

Topics: Health Medical Pharma, Battery, ingestion, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Button cell, Structure, Technology



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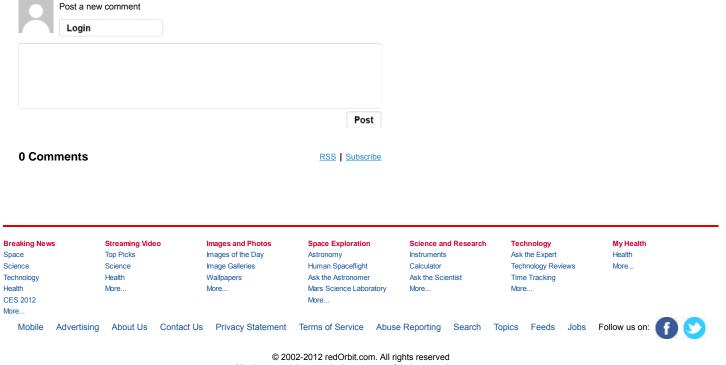


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