

# Young kids can be seriously injured or die from button batteries

BATTERIES | SEPTEMBER 1, 2012 | BY: HAROLD MANDEL



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Raising [kids](http://www.examiner.com/topic/kids) safely is not an easy task. Young children are curious and always checking things out and must therefore be watched carefully to make certain they do not play with something that can injure them or cost them their lives. A primary concern which has arisen is serious harm or even death which can come to kids from button [batteries](http://www.examiner.com/topic/batteries).

<http://www.examiner.com/topic/batteries> . Damian Mcnamara has reported for for Pediatric News Digital Network: **"Warn**

**Parents to Beware of Button Batteries."** (<http://www.pediatricnews.com/single-view/warn-parents-to-beware-of-button-batteries/26b22b061199218f082a244260acc7ce.html>)

According to a study in the August 31, 2012 issue of [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) ([http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6134a1.htm?s\\_cid=mm6134a1\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6134a1.htm?s_cid=mm6134a1_w)) injuries from button sized batteries are on the rise, with 2.5 times as many children under age 13 showing up at an emergency department in 2010 in comparison with 1998. It has been advised that physicians counsel parents that young children can be seriously injured or even die from playing with or ingesting button batteries. It has also been advised that the electronics industry and battery manufacturers develop warnings and industry standards to prevent serious injuries and deaths from button batteries.

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The growing popularity of these coin sized batteries in remote controls, toys, light-up jewelry, and other devices has been associated with an increase from 1,900 cases in 1998 to 4,800 in 2010. Jacqueline Ferrante, Ph.D., of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Division of Health Sciences, and her colleagues have stated in the report "As the use of these batteries expands, so do the estimated number of ED-treated battery exposures in children, with the vast majority of these involving ingestions." Injuries which have occurred from batteries placed in a child's nose or acid burns due to ruptured batteries also are included in this report.

It is strongly advised that batteries be kept away from young children. There were an estimated 40,400 children younger than 13 years treated at U.S. emergency departments for battery-related injuries between 1997 and 2010. Diagnosis of this problem is a challenge. The authors have noted not all children can or are willing to report swallowing a battery or giving one to a sibling. There may be nonspecific symptoms associated the the typical vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and dysphagia associated with battery ingestion.

Dr. Ferrante has said "Consider battery ingestion in the differential diagnosis of any child presenting with nonspecific GI symptoms or unexplained respiratory distress because of the serious consequences associated with a delayed or missed diagnosis." Serious esophageal burns can occur within 2 hours after ingestion with fatal hemorrhage more than 2 weeks following endoscopic removal of a button battery. According to the report nickle-sized, 3-V lithium button batteries can easily lodge in a child's esophagus, and were found to be most frequently associated with serious complications and death.

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Report



**Harold Mandel**, Syracuse Natural Health Examiner

After earning a medical degree (MD) Harold Mandel became interested in Natural Health Care when he discovered that orthodox medicine often does not offer people what they are searching for when they are interested in their optimal health potential. You may contact Harold with your comments and...