

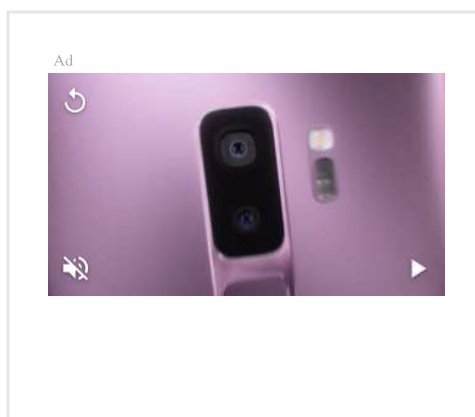
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Dr. Gresham Richter with Arkansas Children's Hospital joined THV11 This Morning to tell us what happens when a child swallows a button cell battery, how to prevent it and what to do if it happens

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (KTHV) -- You can find tiny button cell batteries everywhere in your house, electronics and toys, watches and even in greeting cards.

But would you know what to do if your child swallowed one? It could mean the difference between life and death.

In honor of [Kids ENT Health Month](#), Dr. Gresham Richter with [Arkansas Children's Hospital](#) joined THV11 This Morning to tell us more about what happens when a child swallows a button battery, how to prevent it and what to do if a parent becomes concerned it may have happened.



If anyone ingests a battery, this is what you should do:

1. Immediately call the 24-hour National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 800-498-8666 or 202-625-5337.
2. If readily available, provide the battery identification number, found on the package or from the matching battery.
3. In most cases, an X-ray must be obtained right away to be sure that the battery has gone through the esophagus into the stomach. (If the battery remains in the esophagus, it must be removed immediately.) Most batteries move on to the stomach and can be allowed to pass by themselves.) Based on the patient and size of the battery, the National Battery Ingestion Hotline specialists can help you determine if an immediate x-ray is required.

- 4. Don't induce vomiting. Don't eat or drink until the X-ray shows the battery is beyond the esophagus.
- 5. Watch for fever, abdominal pain, vomiting, or blood in the stools. Report these symptoms immediately.
- 6. Check the stools until the battery has passed.
- 7. Your physician or the emergency room may call the National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline at 800-541-6011 (or 202-625-3333) for consultation about button cell batteries. Expert advice is available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

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