

Toddler 'bled to death' after swallowing battery that stayed in his body for four days

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News

Jonathon Huff was said to have ingested a battery that spent four days burning through his oesophagus, intestines and aorta which ultimately caused fatal bleeding



Jonathon Huff was just 23-months-old when he ingested a battery that killed him (Image: Kennedy News and Media)

A toddler reportedly bled to death after he swallowed a button battery that burned through his organs despite frantic efforts from paramedics to save his life.

Jonathon Huff was just 23-months-old when he ingested a battery that spent four days burning through his oesophagus, intestines and aorta which ultimately caused fatal bleeding.

The toddler, who was known as 'Nugget' and was from North Carolina, US, died on December 20, after eating the disposable battery without his parents noticing, the Sun reports.

His parents, Jacki Huff, 35, and AJ Huff, 34, were said to have believed he had a viral infection, as the battery caused nosebleeds and a temperature.



The toddler was known as "Nugget" and was from North Carolina (Image: Kennedy News and Media)

But after two trips to the doctors the toddler started vomiting blood and appeared to be fitting before falling unconscious.

Despite efforts to save him, the toddler died and an autopsy reportedly found that the button battery in his intestines was from a 'key finder remote.'

Button batteries are common tools used to power everyday objects like car key fobs, remotes and children's toys, but they can badly injure or even kill a child if they are swallowed.

This is because the button battery reacts with saliva to create caustic soda – the chemical used to unblock drains. This can burn a hole in the throat and cause internal bleeding and even death.

Larger lithium 'coin cell' batteries are the most dangerous.



Button batteries are common tools but they can badly injure or even kill a child if they are swallowed (stock image) (Image: Leicester Mercury / Chris Gordon)

Government advice to protect children is to store spare batteries securely, learn which toys and gadgets use button batteries, check the home, dispose of dead batteries and teach older children about their dangers.

If a child does swallow a battery symptoms may not be obvious but a child might be coughing, gagging or drooling, or pointing to their throat or tummy.

Official advice is that if you think a child has swallowed a battery, you should take them straight to the nearest A&E department or call 999 for an ambulance.