

# Toddler undergoes 18 surgeries in a year for horrific burns after swallowing lithium battery from TV remote control

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## Toddler undergoes 18 operations in a year for horrific burns after swallowing lithium battery from TV remote control

By Daily Mail Reporter

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A toddler who swallowed a tiny battery has undergone multiple surgeries as doctors battle to save his life.

Emmett Rauch, two, swallowed a lithium battery from a remote control and has since had 18 surgeries in the past year at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Arizona.

His mother Karla Rauch said no one saw Emmett swallow the battery and the first symptoms he had were similar to a cold.



Little fighter: Emmett Rauch, two, has endured 18 surgeries in under a year after he swallowed a lithium battery at his home in Phoenix, Arizona

She said: 'Batteries start burning in the oesophagus within two hours and it was in him we think about three days.'

The toddler has had four inches of his oesophagus removed after the acid from the battery burned two holes through it.

He has also suffered multiple cases of collapsed lung and had close to 200 X-rays. He has spent more than 19 weeks of his young life in the pediatric ICU.

Household danger: A lithium battery was lodged in Emmett Rauch's throat for three days

The batteries are so dangerous because they don't have as much casing as an AA battery.

A nurse who cares for Emmett, Michelle Chacon, said she has seen several cases of children swallowing batteries and that more should be done to make families aware of the household danger.



The nurse has helped the Rauch family set up a charity to raise awareness about the tiny batteries which are used in everyday objects like clocks, cameras and calculators.

Ms Chacon said: 'You talk about childproofing your home and covering your outlets, and this needs to be a part of that.'

According to the National Capital Poison Center, each year in the U.S. more than 3,500 people swallow miniature disc or button batteries.

The charity called Emmett's Fight aims to inform about the dangers of button battery ingestion.

The symptoms are similar to the common cold or the flu - fever, lack of appetite, coughing and increase of mucus production.



Survival: Emmett Rauch was close to death after ingesting a battery at his home and has suffered multiple health problems ever since



Hooked up: Emmett Rauch swallowed the lithium battery from a TV remote control at his home in Arizona



Constant worry: The boy's mother Karla Rauch said at first his symptoms appeared like a common cold

