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Study: Button Batteries Cause 84% Battery-Related ER Visits

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We always worry about our kids choking on small toys, but a bigger danger may actually be what's inside of them and other items around our home. A new study says that button batteries caused 84% of battery related emergency room trips for children from 1990 through 2009.

Even adults accidentally swallow those small batteries that power toys and remotes. Generally it happens when they're changing batteries in their hearing aids.

Of course it is more common in children since more than 75% of all battery related hospital visits involve kids 5 years old or younger. While they may be a choking hazard, the voltage in these batteries can actually deteriorate our insides rather quickly and cause serious damage. If you suspect your kid has swallowed a battery, you need to get them to a doctor as soon as possible. Doctors will then look to see where in the body the battery is.

If they reach the stomach, the batteries will generally pass sometime between 12 hours and 14 days later.

Something that will help the doctors and speed up the emergency room trip is taking the item that you think the missing battery belongs to. This way the doctor can determine the size and know what to look for.

More Information: Button batteries blamed for uptick in emergency room visits, study finds

(CBS News) Button batteries are becoming a big problem for children across the U.S. The shiny, coin-sized batteries come in just about everything these days, and now a new study shows that may have led to a doubling in the amount of battery-related emergency room visits over the past two decades. According to the study, throughout a 20-year period from 1990 to 2009, there were about 66,000 battery-related emergency department visits by U.S. children under 18. Kids were sent to the ER after placing button batteries in their mouths, noses and ears, but most frequently the reason was because they swallowed batteries. Overall, the number of battery-related injuries doubled from 2,591 into 1990 to 5,525 by 2009, and the average age of kids sent to ER was 4 years old. Button batteries accounted for 84 percent of all battery-related ingestions in children under 18, the study found. [Click Here to read more.](#)

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