

AdChoices ▶

**PARENTS** 01/09/2018 12:20 EST | Updated 1 hour ago

## A Doctor's Tweet About Disc Batteries Is A Crucial Warning To Parents

"Removed 3 disc batteries only this week, stuck in esophagus of babies and toddlers."



By Isabelle Khoo

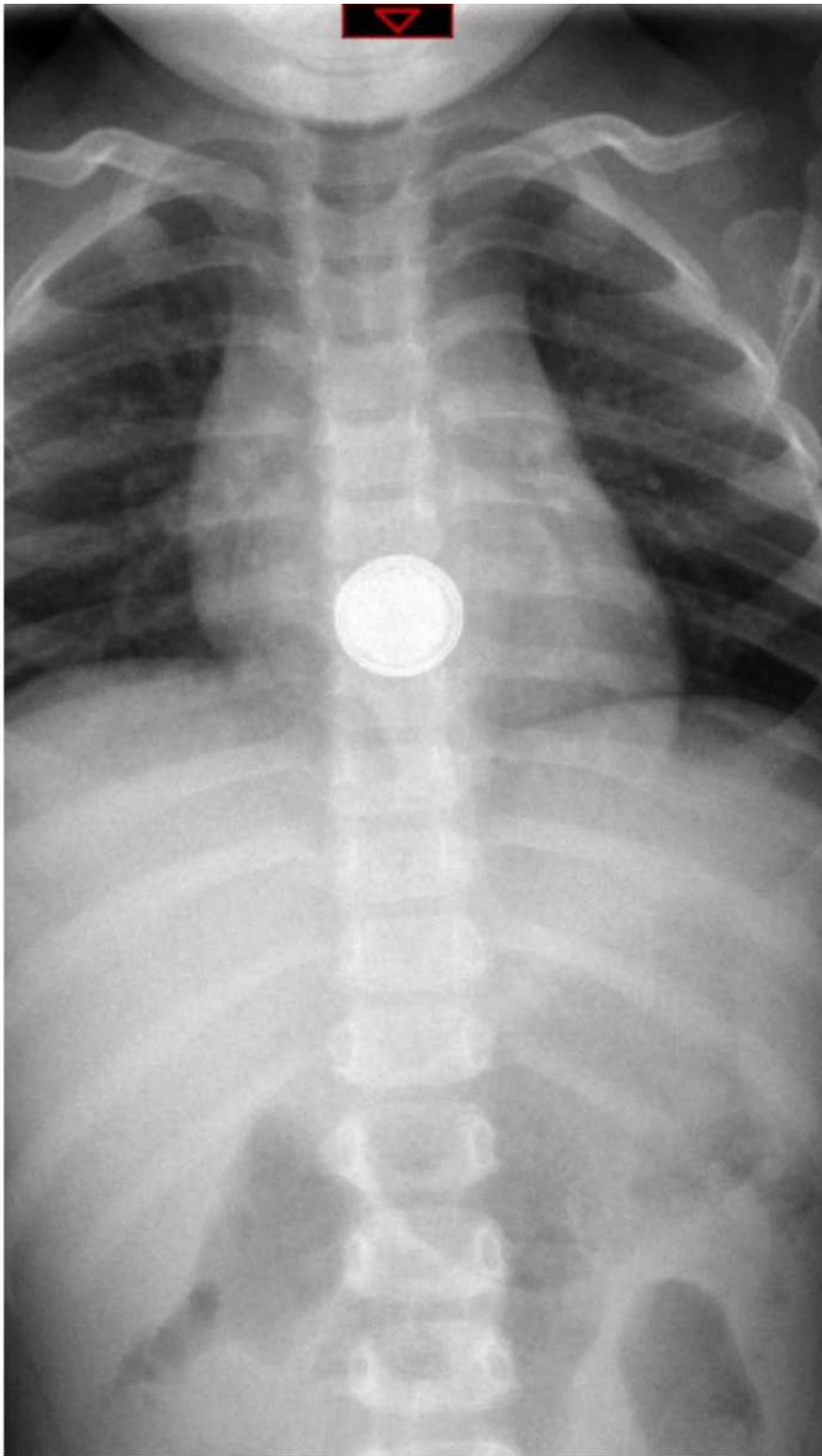


VELEZGREENE VIA GETTY IMAGES

In a [now-viral tweet](#), one doctor reminds parents that putting batteries out of reach of children can mean the difference between life and death.

Over the weekend, Dutch pediatric gastroenterologist Lissy de Ridder shared an X-ray showing a [disc battery lodged in a baby's esophagus](#). In her tweet, de Ridder revealed that she had removed three disc batteries from young patients in one week alone.

"[Damage is severe and lifelong in one of them](#)," she wrote. "Truly individual and societal disaster. Parents, be warned!"



**Lissy de Ridder**

@LissydeRidder

Removed 3 disc batteries only this week, stuck in esophagus of babies and toddlers. Damage is severe and lifelong in one of them. Truly individual and societal disaster. Parents, be warned! Please retweet.

11:07 AM - Jan 6, 2018 · Rotterdam, The Netherlands

101

7,920

2,691

De Ridder's tweet has made some people rally together to raise awareness.

**me**

@kagorsa

Replying to @LissydeRidder

Those types of batteries seem to be in so many things & anties uncles buy babies a music card to annoy the parents sometimes, then the baby starts sucking the card while they are chatting because the baby is teething then finds the battery & its gone, it happens so fast.

1:43 PM - Jan 8, 2018

According to the National Capital Poison Center, if swallowed, not only can batteries get lodged in a child's esophagus, but can also burn a hole through the tissue in just two hours. This can lead to surgery and/or life-threatening complications. In some cases, swallowing disc batteries can also be fatal.

As a result, U.K. surgeon Kate Cross told BBC News, "Button batteries should be treated like poison and kept out of reach of children."



ANTONIOGUILLEM

A disc battery compared to the size of a woman's forefinger.

Stories of children swallowing batteries are nothing new, and Safe Kids reports that more than 2,800 U.S. kids are rushed to emergency each year as a result.

The most well-known case was in 2010 and [involved an Arizona boy named Emmett Rauch](#). At not even a year old, Rauch swallowed a disc battery, which burned his esophagus and paralyzed his vocal cords.



**Emmett's Fight**  
about 4 years ago



14    6    Share

Although the youngster's esophagus [was rebuilt using part of his rib](#), he still had to use a tracheal tube to breathe. However, after [undergoing a total of 65 surgeries](#), Rauch was finally able to breathe on his own five years after the incident, and his tracheal tube was removed in 2015.

Stories like Rauch's and tweets like de Ridder's are important reminders of how dangerous disc batteries can be.

On Twitter, users thanked de Ridder for her eye-opening warning.



**Dr Alex Barnacle**  
@BarnacleAlex

Replying to @LissydeRidder @BAPS1953

Hugely important to raise awareness of this risk.

[#buttonbatteryingestion](#) can be fatal. Thank you for tweeting.

3:29 AM - Jan 8, 2018

2    13    14



**Mamas Mindful Moments**  
@mamasmindtime

Replying to @LissydeRidder

Wow, had never thought of this as a hazard.

1:08 PM - Jan 8, 2018



**Mary H**  
@MHPoison1

Replying to @LissydeRidder

As a career poison control advice RN, I thank you for bringing attention to this dangerous ingestion. Lots of published data from American Association of Poison Control Centers.

10:25 AM - Jan 8, 2018

3 5

**Also on HuffPost:**



**Isabelle Khoo**    
Lifestyle Editor, HuffPost Canada

[Suggest a correction](#)

**MORE:**

dangers disc batteries

dangers of swallowing batteries

Emmett Rauch

Parents

swallowing batteries

swallowing disc batteries

**Popular In the Community**

