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### Healthbeat




# 'Button batteries' becoming choking hazards

Monday, May 24, 2010



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May 24, 2010 (WLS) -- Those little coin-sized lithium "button batteries" found in many household products are becoming a growing hazard.

Children are apparently accidentally swallowing them.

Two new studies find the risk has gone up 7 times from 1985 to 2009.

Experts say it's worse than swallowing a coin.

Typically, ingestion results in the battery getting lodged in the esophagus rather than air passages. There is no choking but symptoms can be flu-like, including vomiting, fever, cough and lack of appetite.


There is also a risk of a potentially fatal alkaline burn. Authors reporting in Pediatrics say items that contain these batteries need to be secured with a screw. And parents need to be careful by keeping these out of reach.

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