If swallowed, a button battery can completely erode the esophagus in less than five hours. (Credit: CBS)

LISTEN: Newsradio 780's Lisa Fielding

Doctors Issue Warning About Button Batteries « CBS Chicago

Doctors Issue Warning About Button Batteries

June 29, 2011 5:19 PM

CHICAGO (WBBM) — Two children in the last three weeks have been treated at Children’s Memorial Hospital after they ingested button batteries.

One child was hospitalized after the battery perforated the esophagus.

Pediatric resident Dr. Karen Maul of Children’s says swallowing batteries can be the equivalent of ingesting bleach.

"Button batteries aren’t like coins when they are swallowed in that they produce an electric current and that generates hydroxide ions so if you can imagine swallowing bleach, it’s kind of similar."

Studies show that small, coin sized batteries found in products such as remote controls, flashlights and greeting cards are now landing in the hands of children and with some devastating consequences. Dr. Maul says this injury is 100 percent preventable.

A study by the National Capital Poison Center found that battery related incidents resulting in severe injury and fatality have increased sevenfold since 1985. Data shows that there used to be a dozen cases a year and that has jumped to an average of 100 cases per year on a review of 56,000 cases.

If the battery is stuck in the esophagus there is only a two hour time window to remove before a chemical burn causes significant tissue damage.

Doctors are advising parents to take an inventory of their home. Maul says look through the different products and determine if you have any...
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Dr. Maul believes that the majority of product injuries could be prevented by properly child-proofing products. "We are working right now on getting the manufacturers to screw the lids back on," said Maul. "I don’t know if they are going to do it, but the legislation is being drafted." He added that the legislation would make it a violation to ship products that aren’t child-proofed.

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NBA Players Officially Locked Out
Union chief Billy Hunter said Thursday afternoon that owners had locked out the players after failing to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

Holmes' Morning After Blog: The Chicago Baseball Season By The Numbers
Here's a look at Chicago's 2011 baseball season by the numbers, on both sides of town.

Bernstein: Cubs Put On A Happy Face
Every next thing we hear from the Cubs is crazier than the last.

The University of Illinois is on the clock. But it's Bruce Weber and Ron Zook who can hear theirs ticking. At about 5 p.m. this evening Illinois will be without an official athletic director for the first time since 1992.

Gamble Pays Off As White Sox Beat Rockies 3-2
A.J. Pierzynski drove in his second run of the game with a sacrifice fly in the ninth inning and the Chicago White Sox hung on to beat the Rockies 3-2.
Teen Mob Hits Walgreens On The Mag Mile
2,993 people recommend this.

Airline Mocks Blago, Offers 'F-ing Golden' Fares
163 people recommend this.

Was Vandalism Of Pride Parade Floats A Hate Crime?
344 people recommend this.

TV SCHEDULE

6:00 PM  CBS 2 News at 6:00PM
6:30 PM  Entertainment Tonight
7:00 PM  The Big Bang Theory
7:31 PM  Rules of Engagement
8:00 PM  CSI: Crime Scene Investigation
9:00 PM  The Mentalist
10:00 PM CBS 2 News at 10:00PM
10:35 PM Late Show with David Letterman