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Swallowed Lithium Battery Burns Hole In Toddler's Esophagus

[Amy Clancy](#)

KIRO 7 Eyewitness News

Posted: 4:04 pm PDT June 9, 2010 Updated: 4:59 pm PDT June 9, 2010

SEATTLE -- A Wenatchee toddler who swallowed a lithium battery is recovering at Seattle Children's Hospital from a hole burned into his esophagus, his mother told KIRO 7 Eyewitness News.

Fourteen-month-old Kylen Carrillo swallowed the flat, round battery three weeks ago, said his mother, Shawna Carrillo.

"He just kept swallowing, like you do when you have something stuck in your throat," Carillo said.

Doctors at the hospital near their home at first thought it was a quarter or a nickel, but soon realized the object was too thick, she said.

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Suspecting a battery, a surgeon removed it later on May 19 and noticed that it had already started to corrode.

Fearing damage to the boy's throat, doctors had Kylen and his mother taken by helicopter to Seattle Children's.

"It made a really big hole in his esophagus," Carillo said. "It definitely could have been fatal. It's very scary to read the stories where they have been fatal."

With more household items being powered by the tiny batteries, more children are putting lithium batteries in their mouths.

Last month, the journal Pediatrics warned about the increasing danger. [See study](#).

Nearly 3,800 such incidents are reported nationwide each year, the American Association of Poison Control Centers said.

Since 1985, 13 children have died after swallowing batteries, according to the Pediatrics study.

Ninety-two percent of all fatal and major injury cases were the result of ingesting 20-millimeter lithium batteries like the one Kylen swallowed, according to the study.

"They just really need to be locked up," Carillo said. "I had no idea how dangerous lithium batteries were. Parents need to know about this, and they need to be careful."

Kylen's prognosis is good, his mother said. The boy should make a full recovery and be released from the hospital this week.

Doctors hope the hole in his esophagus will heal within the next two months.

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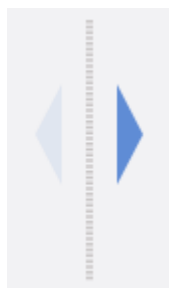
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