



UNDETECTED BUTTON AND COIN CELL BATTERY INGESTION IN CHILDREN

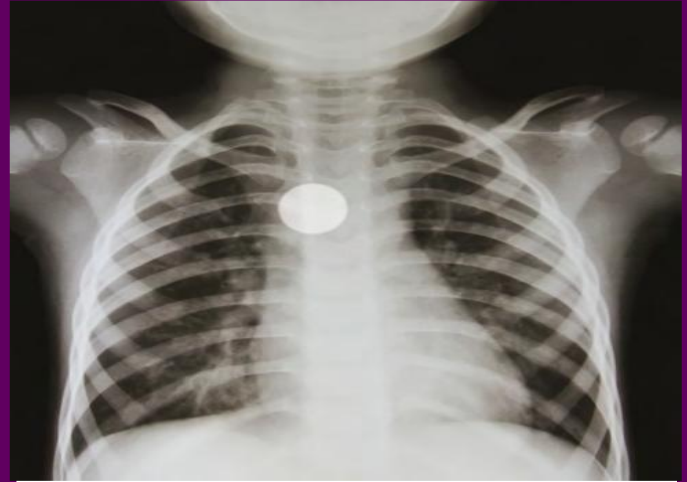


Image Source: Undetected button and coin cell battery ingestion in children (HSSIB)

3-YEAR-OLD GIRL DIED FROM A PERFORATED OESOPHAGUS AFTER AN UNWITNESSED INGESTION OF A COIN CELL BATTERY

Learning Points:

- Button and coin cell batteries can lodge in the oesophagus of young children causing serious harm or death due to a chemical reaction which erodes tissue.
- **Children <5** are the highest risk of injury as a result of swallowed button and coin cell batteries, due to their tendency to put things in their mouths and their inability to articulate their actions.
- **More than 50%** of serious outcomes due to button and coin cell battery ingestion occur after **an unwitnessed ingestion**, in which case there is likely to be a delay in recognition and diagnosis.
- Children can present with persistent non-specific symptoms as well as bleeding (haematemesis/ haemoptysis) and respiratory symptoms.

For more information, please see [Investigation into undetected button coin/cell battery ingestion in children](#) and [Child accident prevention trust leaflet](#)