

Pediatric emergencies

Christos Tzivinikos

UEG Week Berlin 2025

Presentation

Endoscopy

Nurses

Paediatrics

Surgery

October 6, 2025

Button batteries are the most dangerous paediatric foreign body ingestion, requiring urgent removal within two hours if oesophageal and careful monitoring for delayed aorto-oesophageal fistula up to 20 days post-removal.

KEY POINTS

- The speaker emphasised that button batteries must be distinguished from coins on x-ray using lateral and AP views showing the battery's double ring hollow sign, as management differs completely.
- The speaker reported that spent lithium batteries can still cause severe caustic damage within one to two hours of contact with saliva through hydroxide hydrolysis, and presented a case of a 15-month-old with tracheoesophageal fistula after three weeks of unrecognised battery retention.
- The speaker stated that oesophageal button batteries require removal in under two hours without waiting for fasting time, and if the battery has been present more than 12 hours surgeons and cardiothoracic teams should be alerted for possible aorto-oesophageal fistula.
- The speaker described pH neutralisation strategies using honey or sucralfate before removal and acetic acid irrigation after removal, based on in-vitro piglet oesophagus studies showing reduced electrolysis and buffering of alkaline damage.
- The speaker stated that aorto-oesophageal fistula can occur up to 20 days post-removal and children have died at home after discharge, with three millimetres distance from damaged area to major vessel on imaging considered a safe threshold based on case experience.
- The speaker highlighted that multiple magnets swallowed at different times attract across bowel loops causing perforation, and recommended attempted endoscopic removal if ingestion was within six to twelve hours and magnets remain above the iliac crest level.

VIEW THIS CONTENT ON GUTFLIX

<https://gutflix.eu/search/d/d089a442-a82e-11f0-96c7-0242ac140006>



AI-generated summary

This summary was generated by an AI large language model based on the content transcript. It is for informational purposes only and should not be considered a substitute for clinical judgment. Always rely on your professional expertise and the full clinical context when making clinical decisions.