Button Battery Foreign Body, ED

Last Updated: 10/29/25

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Concern for button battery foreign body.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Non-button battery ingested foreign bodies.

MEASURES

- Time from ED arrival to OR arrival.
- Utilization of order set.
- Hospital length of stay.
- 48-hour return to ED.

CLINICAL GUIDANCE

- [IMG2169] – x-ray neck, chest, abdomen 2-view for ingested foreign body.
- Button battery order set.
- For patients aged 1-year and older: may consider honey as a substitute for sucralfate.

Initial Assessment: ED Triage

- Stabilize airway as necessary if signs of airway obstruction
- Utilize **Button Battery Order Set**
- Obtain foreign body x-ray series: X-Ray Neck, Chest, Abdomen 2-view for Ingested Foreign Body **(IMG2169)**
- Radiology Tech notify Radiologist when imaging is completed.
- Radiologist notify ED Attending of confirmed button Battery.
- Make patient NPO except medications.

Is the patient clinically stable?

- **No** (E.g., Hemoptysis, CV instability, prolonged duration of ingestion with button battery at level of aortic arch)
- **Yes**

Confirmed button battery in trachea?

- **Yes**
- **No**

Emergent Removal in OR

- Immediately notify ED Attending.
- Immediately call ENT, GI, & Gen. Surg.
- Ensure Cardiothoracic Surgery / ECMO available.
- Stabilize airway as necessary
- Consider placing PIV.
- Provide supplemental oxygen as needed.
- Keep child calm.

Emergent Removal in OR

- Immediately notify ED Attending.
- Immediately call ENT
- Stabilize airway as necessary
- Consider placing PIV.
- Provide supplemental oxygen as needed.
- Keep child calm.

Button battery location?

- **Esophagus, At or Above Clavicle**: ED Attending (or designee) to call **ENT Attending**, report to OR within 1-hour of notification.
- **Esophagus, Fully Below Clavicle**: ED Attending (or designee) to call **GI Attending**, report to OR within 1-hour of notification.
- **Stomach or Post-Pyloric**

Consult GI

- Consult **GI** if button battery in stomach or beyond.

Notify OR

- ENT/GI Attending notify OR and surgical team of emergent case.

Notify & Report

- Anesthesia on-call notified of need for emergent case.
- Report to OR within 1-hour of notification.

Emergent Case

- Charge RN notified of need for emergent case.
- Charge RN notifies Nursing Supervisor and OR of need for emergent case.

ED Bedside Nurse

- Insert IV.
- Administer sucralfate if <12-hours since foreign body ingestion and can swallow liquids.
- Prepare for transfer to OR.

Transfer Patient to OR

- Transfer patient to OR within 1-hour of OR notifications for emergent removal

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VERSION MANAGEMENT

- Version 1.0 (10/29/25): Go Live.

Questions about this pathway should be directed to **clinicalpathways@nemours.org**.

AUTHORS & REFERENCES

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