

Paediatric UTC Information

Swallowed Objects



Swallowed Object

Almost all swallowed/ingested objects pass through the digestive system without causing any harm, including objects which have sharp edges. They are then passed out in your child's stools (poo).

The most narrow part of the digestive system is where the oesophagus (the food pipe) meets the stomach. Once the object has passed this area, it is extremely unlikely that a blockage would occur.

The nurse practitioners have used a metal detector to identify where in your child the object is.

As the object was found in your child's stomach, your child can be safely discharged home and be supervised closely over the next few days.



Are metal detectors dangerous?

Metal detectors are completely safe to use. We use metal detectors instead of x-rays as they do not use radiation to identify foreign bodies. Various studies have shown the use of metal detectors to be safe, effective and reliable.



Can my child eat and drink

Your child can eat and drink as normal.



Should I give my child medicine?

You can give your child pain relief if it is needed. Unless your child is prescribed laxatives already, you do not need to give your child any medicine to help them pass the object.



How can I prevent my child from doing this again?

As part of their development, children, particularly babies and infants, do put items in their mouth. It is important to ensure that your child is not left unsupervised with small objects, and where possible these items should be stored out of their reach.

Button batteries and magnets are particularly dangerous if ingested, therefore these items should never be accessible to babies and children.

Children who have ingested button batteries or magnets should be taken to the emergency department urgently.



What should I look out for?

You do not need to look in your child's stool for the object.

Seek further medical assessment if your child:

- Is vomiting
- Has abdominal pain or swelling
- Is unable to pass stools (poo)
- Has blood in their stools (poo)
- Has a temperature

If you are concerned or would like further advice, please contact:

Beverley UTC

East Riding Community Hospital,
Swinemoor Lane, Beverley
HU17 0FA
Tel: 01482 478879

Bridlington UTC

Entrance A, Bridlington Hospital,
Bessingby Road, Bridlington
YO16 4QP
Tel: 01262 425631

Hull Royal Infirmary UTC

Block 51
Anlaby Rd, Hull
HU3 2JZ
Tel: 01482 335180

Bransholme UTC

Goodhart Road, Hull
HU7 4DW
Tel: 01482 344665

Goole UTC

Goole and District Hospital
Woodland Avenue, Goole
DN14 6RX
Tel: 01405 720720

If you would like this document in an alternative language or format, such as large print or Braille, please call 01482 976924 or email chcp.marketing@nhs.net

Let us know what you think...

You can contact a CHCP Customer Care Advisor if you have a comment, concern, compliment or complaint by writing to:

Customer Care Advisor, City Health Care Partnership CIC, 5 Beacon Way, Hull, HU3 4AE.

Email: chcp.customercare@nhs.net, Tel: 01482 347 627