

# Silent and hidden hazards: A case report of button battery ingestion

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## **ABSTRACT**

**Introduction:** Button battery ingestion is rare among the usual type of foreign body ingestion in children. Early recognition of symptoms and signs should be followed by urgent referral for appropriate investigation and intervention. Removal of button battery should be done by an experienced surgeon as soon as possible to prevent possible life-threatening complications. **Case Description:** This case report describes a child who allegedly swallowed a button battery, and subsequently had vomited food particles with upper back pain, but had no hematemesis, fever or respiratory distress. Chest radiograph revealed a circular radiopaque shadow with halo sign at upper esophagus region. The button battery was removed by an experienced otorhinolaryngologist using endoscopic assisted rigid esophagoscopy and crocodile forceps. The patient recovered uneventfully. **Discussion:** Button battery ingestion is rare, ranging from 4.2% to 7.5% among all types of foreign body ingestion. Healthcare workers should recognise early symptoms and signs of button battery ingestion, including vomiting, dysphagia, fever, drooling of saliva, coughing, and a sore throat. Early investigation and intervention is crucial. The recommended time for button battery removal is between 2 to 6 hours to prevent complications. Complications of button battery ingestion can range from mild to severe, and is potentially life-threatening.