

# Magnets ingestion in children

**Emergency Department**  
Patient Information Leaflet

## Introduction

Neodymium magnets also known as neo magnet or Super strong rare -earth magnets are easily purchased and are promoted as adult desk toys/stress relievers. They very common and five to ten times stronger than ceramic magnets. They can be brightly coloured, be different shapes (balls, cylinders, discs.) or sizes usually less than 6mm in diameter.

## Presentation

These can be accidently swallowed by children, and cause damage. Ingesting one magnet is unlikely to cause harm, however more than one can cause significant injury.

This advice is for parents/carers of children who have ingested super strong magnets and button batteries

## Information on discharge

### How should I care for my child at home?

The doctor has assessed your child and feels that it is safe for you to go home, A follow up repeat x-ray will be needed 6-12 hours to make sure it is passing through the tummy and bowel. If only one magnet has been ingested, it will pass through the tummy and out in their faeces (poo). You do not need to check the faeces (poo), but if seeing the magnet come out would give you relief, then there is no harm in doing so.

Until your child has had a repeat xray remove any metallic objects like metal buttons or piercings nearby including belly button and other piercings close to the tummy.

## What should I look out for at home?

Very rarely an object can become stuck in the tummy. Take your child to the Emergency Department **IMMEDIATELY** if they have any of the following:

- chest pain
- abdominal pain
- blood in vomit or poo
- Bleeding
- if your child has swallowed or inserted into ear, nose or mouth a **button or coin battery** you need to attend the Emergency Department **IMMEDIATELY**.
- concerns further eating or drinking magnet ingestion
- noisy breathing
- difficulty in breathing
- Wheezing
- drooling
- difficulty in swallowing
- coughing / choking / gagging when eating or drinkin

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not Understand about this leaflet, please contact: -  
Russells Hall Hospital, Paediatrics emergency department  
01384 456111 ext: 1132

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet,  
Please email [dgft.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.patient.information@nhs.net)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

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此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ، ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru vă rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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