Swallowed Foreign Body

Your child appears to have swallowed a foreign body. This is a common problem among infants and small children. Children often swallow coins, buttons, pins, small toys, or fruit pits. Most of the time, these things pass through the bowel without any trouble once they reach the stomach. Even sharp pins, needles, and broken glass rarely cause problems. Button or disk batteries are more dangerous, however, because they can damage the lining of the intestines. X-rays are sometimes needed to check on the movement of foreign objects as they pass through the bowel.

You can inspect your child's stools for the next few days to make sure the foreign body comes out. Sometimes a foreign body can get stuck in the bowel or cause injury.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child has difficulty swallowing.
- Your child has increasing stomach pain, vomiting, or bloody or black bowel movements.
- Your child has an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4º F (38º C) or higher**.
- Your child has wheezing or shortness of breath.

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