

Ingestion of super strong magnets in children

Information for patients, parents, guardians and carers



Recently, a different type of magnet (known as neo magnet, buckyballs, magnet balls or super strong rare earth magnet) has gone on sale. They are most often sold as 'adult desk toys, stress relievers or brain development toys' and it is not legal to sell them to children less than 14 years of age.

The magnets are between seven and fourteen times stronger than traditional magnets and are sometimes called super strong or powerful magnets. They can be a variety of shapes, most often balls or discs. The photographs show examples of what they look like.



Today, your child has been discharged after swallowing a magnet. Even though the magnet has not passed through them yet, it is okay to take your child home.

After going home, your child will need a follow up x-ray between 6 and 12 hours. You should have been given a time to re-attend the Emergency Department. This follow up x-ray is extremely important; doctors need to make sure the magnet is moving normally through your child's bowels. Until your child has had their repeat x-ray, please remove any other external magnetic objects nearby and avoid clothes with metallic buttons or belts with a buckle.

There is no need to examine your child's faeces to find the swallowed object. If a single magnet is ingested, it can be expected to be passed spontaneously if the magnet is not too large. Very rarely, the object can become stuck in the stomach or intestines.

Take your child to your nearest Emergency Department **IMMEDIATELY** if your child:

- Is vomiting.
- Has abdominal (tummy) pain.
- Has blood in their vomit or poo.
- Has a fever.

Or if you have concerns about:

- Further magnet or foreign body ingestion.
- A change in your child's eating patterns, e.g. refusing food or fluids.

Further sources of information

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk/conditions

Our website: www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk

King's Mill Hospital: 01623 672222

Newark Hospital: 01636 685692

Email: sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net

Patient Experience Team (PET)

PET is available to help with any of your compliments, concerns or complaints, and will ensure a prompt and efficient service.

If you would like this information in an alternative format, for example large print or easy read, or if you need help with communicating with us, for example because you use British Sign Language, please let us know. You can call the Patient Experience Team on 01623 672222 or email sfh-tr.PET@nhs.net.

This document is intended for information purposes only and should not replace advice that your relevant health professional would give you. External websites may be referred to in specific cases. Any external websites are provided for your information and convenience. We cannot accept responsibility for the information found on them. If you require a full list of references (if relevant) for this leaflet, please email sfh-tr.patientinformation@nhs.net or telephone 01623 622515, extension 6927.

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