



Poison HOTLINE

Partnership between Iowa Health System and
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

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Did you know

The DEA used its emergency scheduling authority to temporarily control five chemicals found in synthetic marijuana (K2, Spice, Mr Nice Guy). The chemicals include: JWH-018, JWH-073, JWH-200, CP-47,497, and cannabicyclohexanol.

Designated as Schedule I substances, possessing and selling these five chemicals or products that contain them will be illegal for at least one year while they determine if these chemicals should be permanently controlled.

Refer to the April 2010 Poison Hotline or call the ISPCC for more information on K2.

Button Battery Ingestions

Small, flat, disk batteries, commonly called button batteries, are universally used in watches, calculators, hearing aids, and toys as energy sources. Several thousand button batteries are ingested each year in the US. While the majority of ingested button batteries pass through the GI tract without incident, multiple cases nationally among U.S. poison centers indicate that severe and fatal button battery ingestions are increasing.

Disk batteries vary in diameter from 7.9 – 23 mm in size. For comparison, a dime is 18 mm, a nickel is 21 mm, and a quarter is 24 mm. Button batteries that lodge in the esophagus pose the greatest risk. Serious burns to the esophagus have occurred as quickly as 2 hours after a button battery has become lodged. These burns can occur because the button battery may leak caustic materials or generate an electrical current.

Ingestions involving large-diameter batteries (≥ 20 mm) or children who were younger than 4 years of age had significantly worse outcomes. Most ingestions that had either a fatal or a major outcome were not witnessed, and this often leads to either a delayed or missed diagnosis because the child presents with non-specific symptoms (cough, sore throat, not eating, etc). The most frequent complications among major-outcome cases included tracheo-esophageal fistulas, esophageal perforation, and esophageal strictures or stenosis.

Because of the risk of esophageal damage, all children who ingest a button battery – even when asymptomatic – need immediate referral to an ED or urgent care for an x-ray to confirm that the battery has not become lodged in the esophagus. The x-ray must visualize the throat because button batteries can lodge in the cervical esophagus. The ISPCC is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to answer questions about button battery ingestions. Call us at 1-800-222-1222.

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POISON
Help
1-800-222-1222

Post and share this edition of **Poison Hotline** with your colleagues. Send comments or questions to Poison Hotline, 712-234-8775 (fax) or nobletf@ihs.org. To subscribe or unsubscribe from this distribution list, contact the Iowa Poison Center education office at 712-279-3717. Read past issues of **Poison Hotline** at www.iowapoison.org.