



Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

April 2022



Did you know

Butane exposures can occur in one of two ways: 1) abuse as an inhalant, and 2) used to extract THC from marijuana.

Inhaled butane is a CNS depressant and can also cause euphoria. Users may continue to inhale butane fumes to maintain the high. Sudden sniffing death can occur when hydrocarbons are inhaled. Death is caused by irregular and rapid heart rhythms.

Butane is also used to extract THC from marijuana plants to make a sticky wax of concentrated marijuana called Butane Honey Oil (BHO).

Butane is a highly flammable gas and is considered an explosion hazard when the fumes ignite. Severe burns are often seen in these patients.

Call **1-800-222-1222** to report butane exposures.

Button Batteries

When ingested, most button batteries pass through the GI tract without any problem. However, cases with severe esophageal or airway burns, and even fatalities, have occurred following the ingestion of a button battery.

Serious burns to the esophagus have occurred as quickly as 2 hours after a button battery has become lodged in the esophagus. These burns occur because the button battery can generate an electrical current or may leak caustic materials (less likely). Because of the risk of esophageal damage, all children who ingest a button battery need immediate referral to the emergency department for an x-ray to confirm that the battery has not become lodged in the esophagus. The x-ray must image the child's entire neck as well as the chest and abdomen. This is necessary because a battery lodged in the upper esophagus may not be visualized on a regular chest x-ray.

If available, honey (10 mL every 10 min for 6 doses) can be administered before and during transport to ER, only if (a) the child is 12 months of age or older, (b) the child is able to swallow, and (c) it has been less than 12 hours since the battery was ingested. In the ER, sucralfate (10 mL of 1gm/10mL every 10 min for 3 doses) can be given. Honey and sucralfate can delay, but not prevent the development of esophageal burns caused by the button battery. Administering honey or sucralfate is not a reason to delay transport to the ER or to delay endoscopic removal of a battery lodged in the esophagus.

Batteries lodged in the esophagus require IMMEDIATE removal since serious burns can occur in 2 hours.

Batteries past the esophagus rarely cause a problem and can usually be left to pass on their own if the patient remains asymptomatic. Check stools for passage of the battery for 5-7 days (can take up to 14 days to pass). If not seen in one week or symptoms develop, see a doctor for a repeat x-ray.

Children can also insert button batteries into the ears or nose, requiring immediate removal due to the risk of serious injury.

For treatment advice concerning button batteries, contact the IPCC at **1-800-222-1222**.

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