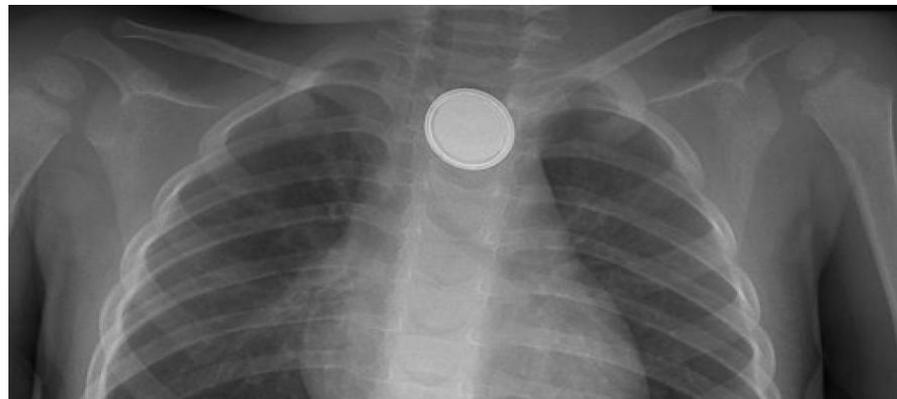


The CDOP newsletter is designed to raise awareness of the work of the Hillingdon Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and to share news about our ongoing campaigns.

**Christmas seems to get earlier every year, but when it comes to child safety, earlier definitely means better.**

### **Button Battery Awareness**



Lithium batteries are common in many toys, flashing and musical cards and Christmas decorations. They react with saliva so that they **leak acid** within as little as an hour. If a child swallows a battery, it can cause severe trauma, such as burning a hole in their throat or stomach, or further damage to other internal organs, or even **death**.

**Button batteries are deadly - make sure your child is safe.**

**What you can do :**

Make sure that toys and other products using button cell batteries, such as small electronic devices, have lockable battery compartments. This should mean that they are safe for children to use, as the batteries are locked away.

Be extra vigilant with items including musical greeting cards, candles and remote controls, as they do not have lockable compartments. The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) advises that children should not be allowed to have access to these products, if the battery compartment is not secure.

It is a good idea to ensure that spare batteries are locked away, and used batteries are disposed of correctly.

### **What should I do if my child swallows a button cell battery?**

If your child swallows a button cell battery, seek medical advice **immediately**.

Remember that the saliva in their body will react with the battery and so time is very much of the essence.



*The burning effect of a button battery when placed between slices of ordinary ham, simulating a child's throat.*

**Keep safe and have a Merry Christmas!**

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