



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS / CARERS

# Swallowed Foreign Objects

## What are swallowed foreign objects?

Babies and children can accidentally swallow things such as coins, small toys or batteries. These are classed as swallowed foreign objects. The ingested object that most frequently results in hospital attendance is a metal coin. However, in Bradford we see a variety of objects which usually do not cause any long term problems.

## Does my child need an x-ray?

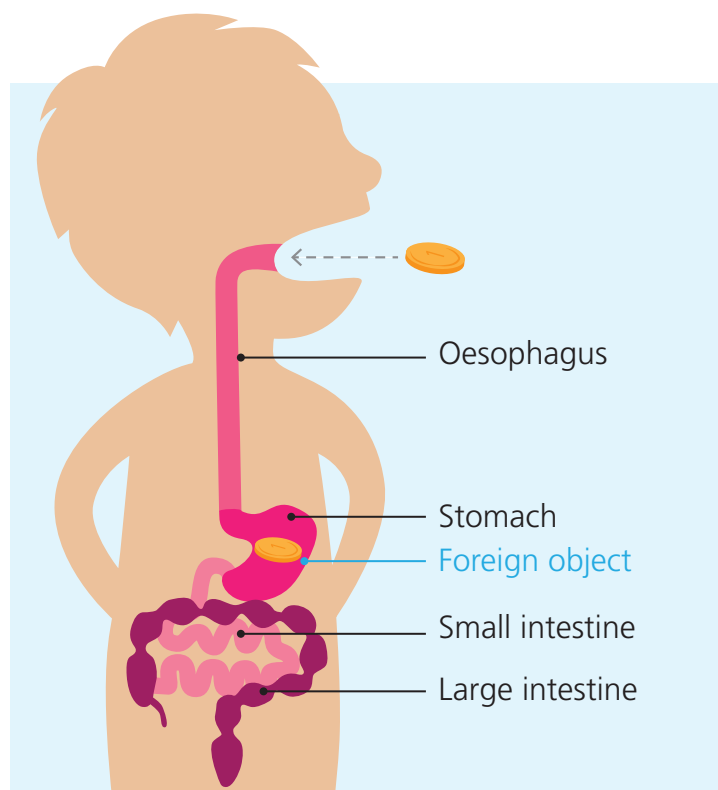
Nowadays instead of taking x-rays we use a hand-held metal detector to determine the presence or absence of the foreign object. The hand-held metal detector can only be used with swallowed objects that are metallic.

## What are the benefits of not having an x-ray?

- reduced time spent in the Emergency Department
- no exposure to potentially harmful radiation
- less invasive and can be fun for the child.

The diagram opposite indicates where the metal detector has located your child's foreign object.

It is below the rib cage which indicates that it is safe to let your child go home without any further investigations or follow-up.



## What to look out for at home:

- abdominal pain / cramps
- on- going vomiting (being sick)
- blood in your child's vomit
- blood in your child's faeces (poo).

The swallowed foreign object should travel through the digestive tract and leave the body without causing problems. Therefore you do not need to examine your child's poo for the foreign object. However some parent's may feel reassured by doing this.

If your child experiences any of the above symptoms then please come back to the children's emergency department.

## What should I do if I have concerns?

We will be happy to see you again if you are worried about your child. Alternatively you can contact your GP.

If you have any problems or concerns please contact the children's emergency department on:

**Phone:** (01274) 364012

Alternatively, attend in person to the children's emergency department and ask to speak to a member of the nursing staff.

Children's Emergency Department  
Bradford Royal Infirmary,  
Duckworth Lane,  
Bradford,  
BD9 6RJ

### People with hearing and speech difficulties:

You can contact us using the Relay UK app. Textphone users will need to dial 18001 ahead of the number to be contacted.

**Dial:** 18001 01274 364012 – 24 hours

## Accessible Information

If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff.

## Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.

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