

Foreign Body Ingestion/Aspiration

Clinical Practice Guidelines

VERSION
05/27/2026

Potential Foreign Body Ingestion or Aspiration

H&P

Rule out foreign body if:

- * History of choking episode or caregiver concern for ingestion
- * Airway obstruction, stridor, or unilateral wheezing
- * Drooling
- * Vomiting without signs of viral illness
- * Hematemesis
- * Chest discomfort
- * Difficulty swallowing, refusal to eat, decreased appetite
- * Coughing, choking, or gagging with eating or drinking
- * Crepitus of the neck/upper chest

High risk age group ≤ 5 years of age. Peak incidence in 1-2 year olds.

All foreign body ingestions should be considered button batteries until proven otherwise!

Obtain STAT foreign body series radiologic study
(Imaging includes x-rays of lateral neck, chest, & abdomen: an orthogonal view will also be obtained if a button battery is identified)

Foreign Body Identified on Imaging

***Proceed to the associated CPG, and/or refer to NASPGHAN guideline**

Kramer RE, et al. Management of ingested foreign bodies in children: a clinical report of the NASPGHAN Endoscopy Committee. J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr. 2015 Apr;60(4):562-74. PMID: 25611037.

Button Battery*

Coins,
Blunt Objects

Magnets

Sharp Objects*

Super Absorbent
Objects

Airway Foreign
Body

Pre-hospital Recommendations for Ingestion of Button Batteries:

- Send patient to ED immediately
- Notify ED of expected patient arrival
- Keep patient NPO (except honey/Sucralfate)
- For ingestion < 12 hours:
 - ≥ 12 mo. Give honey 10mL PO Q10 min
 - < 12 mo. Give Sucralfate 1g PO Q10 min

Magnet Precautions:

- Remove all metallic, magnetic objects from child's environment
- Ensure no magnets, metal on child's clothing (buckles, snaps, buttons)
- Ensure no additional magnets available for ingestion
- Continue precautions until magnets are passed

Airway Foreign Body Consults:

- 1 st week of month: ENT
- 2nd-4th week: Peds Surgery

Ingestion of Sharp Object

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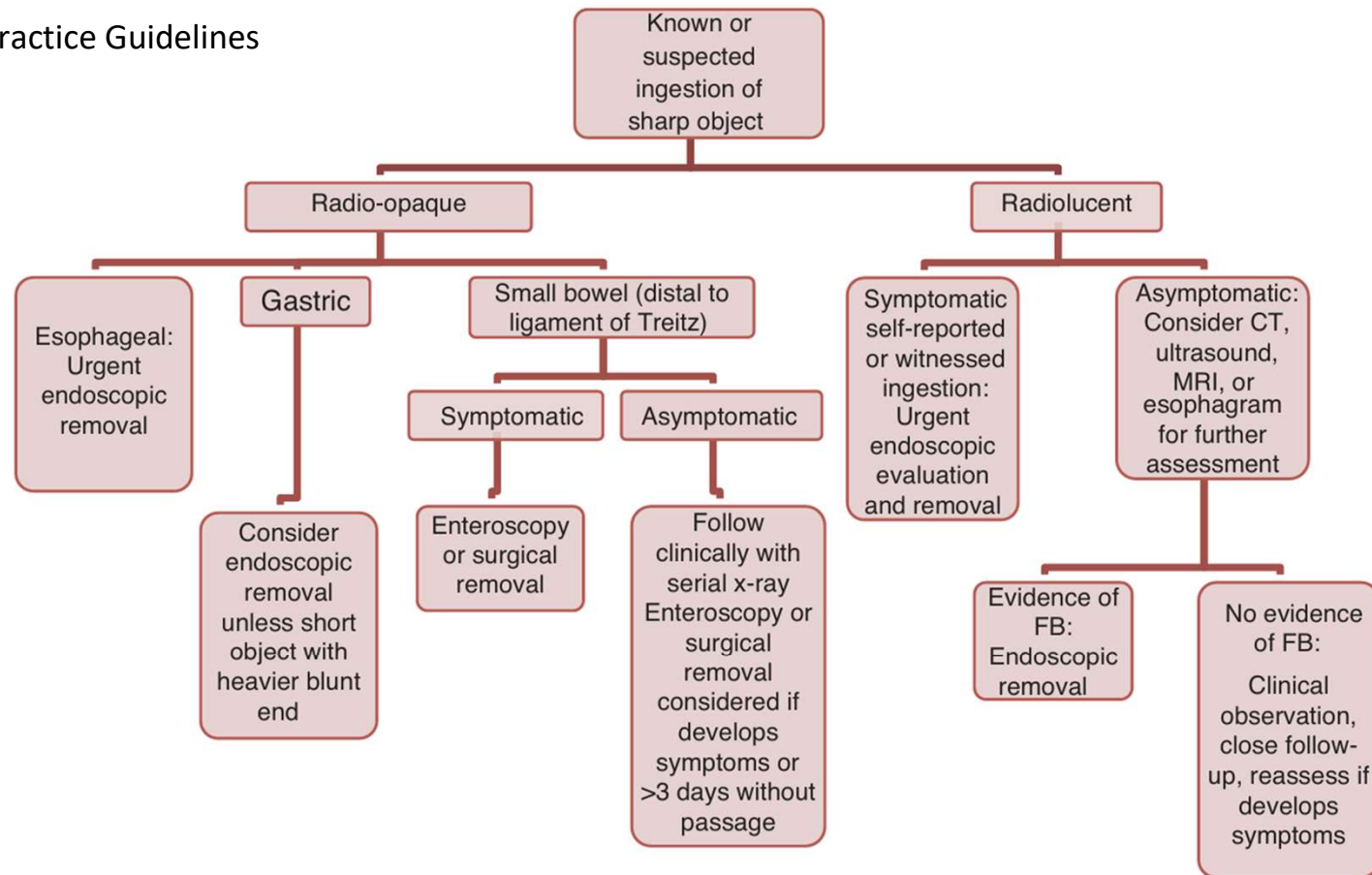


FIGURE 4. Proposed management algorithm for ingestion of sharp or pointed objects in children. CT = computed tomography; FB = foreign body; MRI = magnetic resonance imaging.