

Introduced by: American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Subject: Safer Button / Coin Batteries

Referred to: Reference Committee E

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- 1 Whereas, button, or coin cell, batteries can lead to life-threatening injuries of the esophagus,  
2 trachea or major vasculature in children when ingested<sup>1-3</sup>; and  
3  
4 Whereas, button batteries are in ubiquitous use in household items such as remote controls,  
5 toys, decorations and key fobs; and  
6  
7 Whereas, no battery manufacturer currently produces a safe button or coin cell battery; and  
8  
9 Whereas, it is estimated that a child is taken to the emergency room every 75 minutes with a  
10 battery-related injury, a rate that has doubled within the last decade<sup>3</sup>; and  
11  
12 Whereas, the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the American  
13 Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Surgeons and nine other medical organizations  
14 have joined to call on battery manufacturers to introduce safer alternatives to current button  
15 batteries<sup>5</sup>; therefore be it  
16  
17 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association promote a definition of safer button or coin  
18 cell battery as one which will not cause significant tissue injury if lodged in the body but will still  
19 adequately function to power electronic devices (New HOD Policy); and be it further  
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21 RESOLVED, that our AMA advocate for industry development and employment of safer button  
22 battery technology. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest – between \$1,000 - \$5,000

Received: 4/14/25

**REFERENCES:**

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2. Vascular Complications in Children Following Button Battery Ingestions: A Systematic Review. Akinkugbe O, James AL, Ostrow O, Everett T, Wolter NE, McKinnon NK. Pediatrics. 2022 Sep 1;150(3):e2022057477. doi: 10.1542/peds.2022-057477. PMID: 36032017
3. Current management of button battery injuries. Sethia R, Gibbs H, Jacobs IN, Reilly JS, Rhoades K, Jatana KR. Laryngoscope Investig Otolaryngol. 2021 Apr 15;6(3):549-563. doi: 10.1002/liv.2.535. eCollection 2021 Jun. PMID: 34195377.
4. Pediatric Battery-Related Emergency Department Visits in the United States: 2010-2019. Chandler MD, Ilyas K, Jatana KR, Smith GA, McKenzie LB, MacKay JM. Pediatrics. 2022 Sep 1;150(3):e2022056709. doi: 10.1542/peds.2022-056709. PMID: 36032018.
5. AAO-HNS Position Statement on Button and Coin Battery Technology: <https://www.entnet.org/resource/position-statement-button-and-coin-battery-technology/#:~:text=A%20button%20or%20coin%20cell,function%20to%20power%20electronic%20devices.>