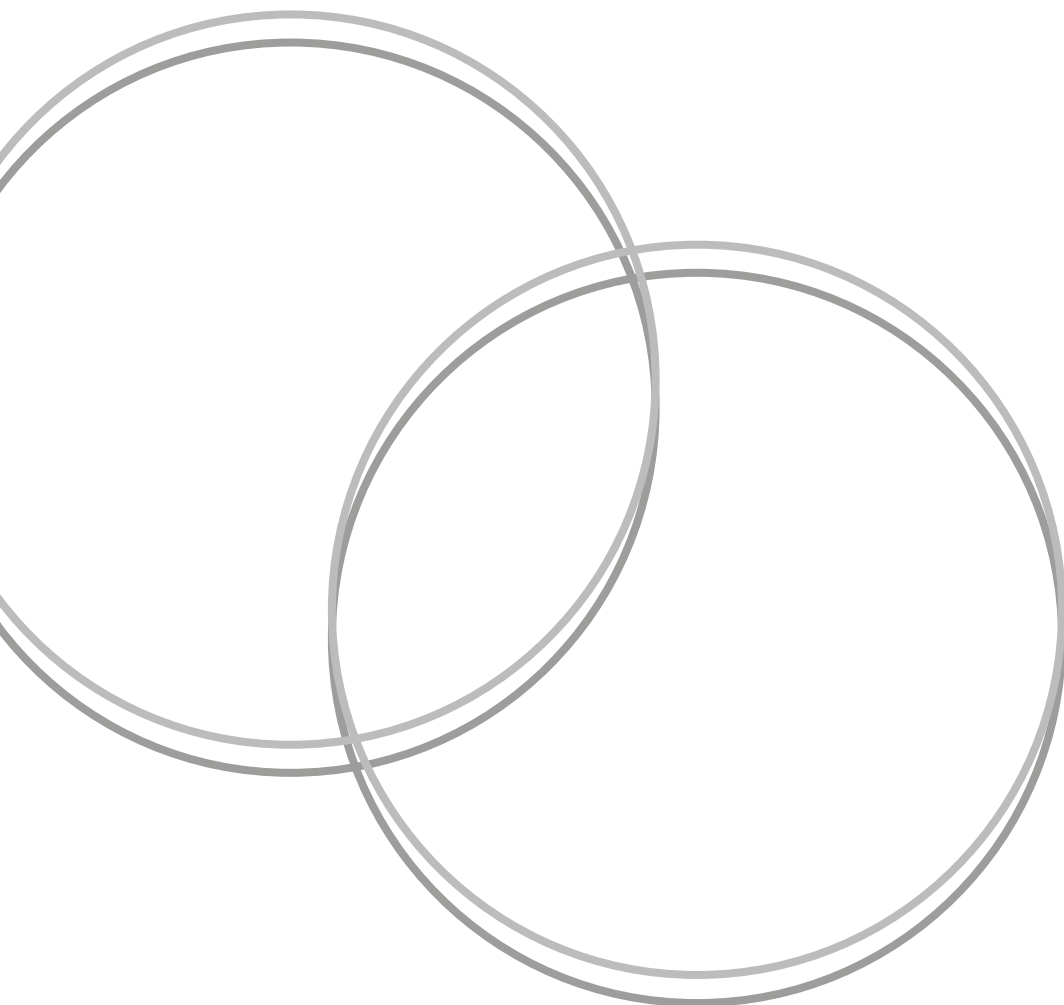


Ingestion of Super Strong Magnets in Children

Information for patients, parents and carers



Magnets

Recently, a different type of magnet (also known as Neo magnet, Bucky balls, Magnet balls or Super Strong Rare-Earth Magnets) has gone on sale.

They are most often sold as 'adult desk toys, stress relievers or brain development toys' and it is not legal to sell them to children less than 14 years of age.

They are between seven and fourteen times stronger than traditional magnets and are sometimes called super strong or powerful magnets. They can be a variety of shapes, most often balls or discs.

These are some examples of what they look like:



After your visit

Today, your child has been discharged after swallowing a magnet. Even though the magnet has not passed through them yet, it is okay to take your child home.

After going home, your child will need a follow up X-ray 6-12 hours later to check that the magnet is moving normally through your child's bowels.

Please bring your child back to the Emergency Department on ___ / ___ / _____ at ___ : ___ for their repeat X-ray.

Until your child has had their repeat X-ray, remove any other external magnetic objects nearby and avoid clothes with metallic buttons or belts with a buckle.

There is no need to examine your child's faeces to find the swallowed object.

If a single magnet is ingested, it can be expected to be passed spontaneously if the magnet is not too large.

Emergency situation

Very rarely, the object can become stuck in the stomach or intestines. Take your child to the nearest Emergency Department IMMEDIATELY if they have:

- Concerns of further magnet or foreign body ingestion
- Vomiting
- Abdominal (tummy) pain
- Blood in their vomit or poo
- A fever
- You have concerns about a change in your child's eating patterns e.g. refusing food or fluids

Further Information

Please speak to the department where you are being seen if you would like an interpreter. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter. Please also ask them if you would like this information leaflet in another format, such as:

- easy read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronically
- in another language.

We have tried to make this information meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They will be happy to help.

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