

CONJOINED PRESS RELEASE STATEMENT

WARNING: COIN TYPE LITHIUM BATTERIES ARE A DANGER FOR YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD THEY EVER INGEST THEM!

The Poisoning Control Centers of Lombardy are issuing an alert concerning the risk associated with the ingestion of coin type lithium based batteries (also known as micro batteries or "button shaped" batteries). These are round, flat batteries, typically measuring 2 centimeters in diameter; the acronym "CR" could be present on either side. The growing usage of this kind of batteries has determined, during the last five years, an increase of the number of ingestion related accidents especially in younger children.

These batteries can cause damage primarily to the esophagus and also to the stomach due to the electric effect alone, regardless of the release of toxic substances following the opening of the battery itself. The Poisoning Control Centers of Lombardy stress that **the consequences can be severe (esophageal perforation) and have determined a significant increase of the cases of death.**

To avoid such risk denying children access to the product is paramount.

Warning: Micro batteries often power toys or other devices normally present in a domestic environment (clocks, digital scales, calculators, remote controls, etc.). The ingestion occurs because the child is able to obtain the batteries by removing them from their housing.

Therefore, it is important to make sure that the battery housings present in the aforementioned devices are efficiently secured, can be opened only with specific tools, and that are not broken or otherwise tampered with.

In case of certain or suspected ingestion of one of these batteries:

- Call a Poisoning Control Center;
- Do not induce vomiting;
- Bring the child to your local Emergency Room, even if he or she doesn't show any symptoms.

It is imperative to recover all available information in order to identify the type of battery that was ingested.

Therefore, it is necessary to bring the device from which the battery was removed and, if available, the original retail packaging of the battery itself or the other batteries still present in the device.

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