

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU SWALLOW OR INSERT A FOREIGN OBJECT

WHAT IS A FOREIGN OBJECT?

Foreign objects are things that should not be in the human body, like:

- * weapons
- * drug-filled balloons
- * razor blades
- * razors
- * cell phones
- * pens
- * batteries
- * knives, forks, and spoons
- * staples/nails
- * paper clips
- * cartons
- * foam cups

WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF I SWALLOW OR INSERT A FOREIGN BODY?

- * You could die
- * Pain that may be severe
- * Problems breathing
- * Fever
- * Feeling sick and throwing up
- * Serious or permanent injury to body tissue
- * Your bladder or bowel could burst
- * Bleeding
- * Serious infection
- * Irritation or swelling
- * Blockage of airway or intestines
(due to change of intestine position or bowel swelling from soaking up body fluids)
- * The foreign body could get stuck or move to another part of the body. You may need medical help to remove it.
- * Signs of an Overdose:
 - Seizures
 - Sleepiness or coma
 - Anxiety or jitters
 - Breathing problems
 - Chest pain
 - Rapid heart beat
 - Death

HOW IS A FOREIGN OBJECT IN THE BODY FOUND?

- ⇒ Patient report
- ⇒ Report from observer
- ⇒ Physical exam
- ⇒ X-ray
- ⇒ Metal detector

MEDICAL STAFF CANNOT ALWAYS SEE A FOREIGN OBJECT IN AN X-RAY. TO STAY HEALTHY, IT IS VITAL THAT YOU REPORT WHAT YOU HAVE INSERTED OR INGESTED.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW IF YOU SWALLOW OR INSERT A FOREIGN OBJECT

PERMANENT DAMAGE TO YOUR BODY MAY OCCUR FROM SINGLE OR REPEATED SWALLOWING OR INSERTION OF A FOREIGN OBJECT.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE A FOREIGN OBJECT IN MY BODY?

Tell health care staff what you swallowed or inserted. Promptly report any of these symptoms:

- ◆ Pain
- ◆ Bleeding
- ◆ Difficulty breathing
- ◆ Hard to swallow
- ◆ Problems with bowel movements
- ◆ Urination problems
- ◆ Feeling warm or feverish
- ◆ Anxiety or jitters
- ◆ Drowsiness
- ◆ Other changes in how you feel

Follow up with your health care provider as directed.

TREATMENT OF FOREIGN OBJECT IN BODY

The location and type of foreign object determines treatment which may include:

- ◆ Waiting for passage of the foreign object
- ◆ Removal by suction
- ◆ Removal with instruments (possibly including use of a scope)
- ◆ Surgical removal

SERIOUS AND LIFELONG COMPLICATIONS OF FOREIGN BODY INSERTION/INGESTION MAY INCLUDE:

- ◆ Permanent Colostomy (*patient wears a bag attached to abdomen to collect feces*)
- ◆ Permanent Urostomy (*patient wears a bag attached to abdomen to collect urine*)
- ◆ Permanent Fistulas (*abnormal connection from hollow organ to skin or between two hollow organs. An example of a fistula is an abnormal tract from the rectum to the skin*)
- ◆ Internal scarring and problems with organ function
- ◆ Scarring of the skin
- ◆ Permanent brain damage
- ◆ Permanent organ damage