Foreign body in the nose – Emergency management – Flowchart

Child presents to ED with foreign body in nose

Button battery suspected?

Yes

Urgent removal required to prevent tissue necrosis

- Keep NBM
- Targeted facial X-ray if cannot be directly visualised (contact RSQ to arrange transfer for X-ray if no on-site X-ray)

No

Removal not urgent

Criteria for ENT referral? (Box A)

Yes

Single attempt at removal (see Guideline for possible methods)

Successfully removed and no significant trauma?

Yes

Discharge home with advice re potential complications & accident prevention

No

Refer to ENT service

No

Urgent referral to ENT (onsite or via Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ))

Box A: Criteria for ENT referral
Refer a child with the following foreign bodies to ENT (do not attempt removal in ED):
- posterior and not easily visualised
- paired magnets or magnet and metallic object across nasal septum
- chronic or impacted with marked inflammation
- penetrating or hooked
- remain despite multiple attempts at removal prior to ED presentation

Consider seeking senior emergency/ ENT advice as per local practices

Refer to onsite/local ENT as per local practices.

Refer to ENT (onsite or via Retrieval Services Queensland (RSQ) on 1300 799 127) for urgent removal

For more information refer to CHQ-GDL-60022 – Foreign body in the nose – Emergency management