

**NOTES:**

- 1) Mild symptoms include refusal to eat, cough, Nausea/vomiting, sore throat, foreign body Sensation.
- 2) Moderate or severe symptoms include Hematochezia, melena, abdominal pain, or Distension.
- 3) Symptoms distal to the esophagus include Hematochezia, melena, abdominal pain, or Distension.
- 4) Large object: > 2-3 cm in children less than one year of age.
- 5) Continuous pulse oximetry is required in case of a "pop-up" of the foreign body into larynx.
- 6) Rigid endoscopy should be performed by a Pediatric otolaryngologist or pediatric surgery. Laparotomy should be performed by pediatric Surgery.

**Suspected Foreign Body Ingestion  
in a Clinically Stable Child**

History and/or signs and  
Symptoms of Foreign Body  
Ingestion (1) (2) (3)

Foreign Body Series  
(X-Rays of neck, chest and  
abdomen)

Object in  
Esophagus

Object distal to  
esophagus

Object not seen

Mild (or no)  
symptoms (1) &  
blunt object &  
ingestion <24  
hours

Sharp object  
or disc battery  
or inability to  
swallow  
secretions or  
stridor or  
pneumo-  
mediastinum

Moderate or  
severe  
symptoms or  
ingestion >24  
hours

Asymptomatic

Symptomatic  
(3)

Removal via  
laparotomy  
by pediatric  
surgery

Go to  
**RADIOLUCENT  
ALGORITHM**

- Observe up  
to 24 hours  
with  
continuous  
pulse  
oximetry (5).  
- Repeat X-  
rays (or  
evaluate with  
metal  
detector)  
- Rigid  
endoscopy  
(6) if no  
progress in  
24 hours.

Urgent  
removal by  
rigid  
endoscopy  
and warn ICU

Removal by  
rigid  
endoscopy

Small  
blunt  
object

Large  
Object (4)

Sharp  
Object

Beyond  
duodenal  
sweep

Proximal  
to  
duodenal  
sweep

Beyond  
duodenal  
sweep

Weekly  
X-rays  
Check  
Stool

Remove by  
endoscopy if  
it can be  
done safely

Q3 daily X-  
rays and  
check stool

Consider remove by  
endoscopy if still in  
stomach for > 1  
week

Consider removal by  
pediatric surgery  
(laparotomy) if no  
progression for > 1  
week after object is  
beyond stomach

Consider removal by  
pediatric surgery  
(laparotomy) if no  
progression in >3  
days