



## More than a stomach bug: Close-to-home care for GI emergencies

When a child swallows something dangerous, like magnets or button batteries, time is of the essence. But for Jenna, mom of 3-year-old Elijah, it took repeated trips to their local Emergency Department in northeast Kansas to convince the medical team that her son's persistent vomiting and lethargy were more than just a stomach bug. At Jenna's insistence, they took an X-ray, which revealed a string of magnets lodged in his belly and causing extensive damage to Elijah's intestines.

The local hospital rushed Elijah to Children's Mercy by ambulance. After a 6-hour surgery, our [gastroenterology \(GI\)](#) team was able to remove 37 tiny magnets. Jenna recognized them as part of a toy that one of Elijah's relatives was playing with shortly before his symptoms started.

**Children's Mercy GI Section Chief, Thomas Attard, MD, FAAP, FACG**, emphasized the dangers of magnets as toys. "If you witness a child swallowing a magnet, you should go to the emergency room right away," he said. And Jenna was incredibly grateful to CMKC for listening to her and helping Elijah. "I can never thank them enough for everything they did for him," she said.

Expanding our [emergency care](#) and [surgical capabilities](#) at [Children's Mercy Hospital Kansas](#) is vital to providing lifesaving care to kids when every moment counts.

*"We are incredibly grateful to CMKC for listening to us and helping Elijah. I can never thank them enough for everything they did for him."*

Jenna,  
Elijah's Mom



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