Figure 5. Treatment Algorithm of Foreign Body Ingestions in Children

Suspected foreign body ingestion

X-ray

FB in esophagus

Asymptomatic

Coin or other blunt, small object

May be observed up to 24 hrs with repeat X-ray to ensure passage into the stomach

Symptomatic

Button battery, sharp object, or large object

Immediate removal

FB distal to esophagus

Symptomatic

Small, blunt object

Weekly X-rays until passage

Large object: > 2-3 cm in child younger than 1 yr or ≥ 3-5 cm in child older than 1 yr

Before duodenal sweep: immediate removal

Asymptomatic

Sharp object

Past duodenal sweep: Weekly X-ray, removal if no progress within 1 week

Past duodenal sweep: Daily X-rays and surgical removal if no progress in 3 days