

# Warning labels on high-powered magnets are unlikely to prevent child injuries

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Parents of children with high-powered magnet exposures often do not

know if warning labels were present, or they report not reading them, according to a study published online Oct. 3 in *Pediatrics*.

Leah K. Middelberg, M.D., from Nationwide Children's Hospital and The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, and colleagues conducted a retrospective, multicenter study of children with high-powered magnet exposures ([ingestion](#) or bodily insertion). Participants responded to a questionnaire relating to the presence and utility of [warning labels](#). Overall, 173 [parents](#) and one adult patient were reached and consented to participate.

The researchers found that in 53.6 percent of cases, individuals reported not knowing if a warning label was present, while 22.3 percent stated that warnings were absent. In 24.1 percent of cases, warnings were present, but only 46.4 percent reported reading the warnings. In 16.1 percent of exposures, a [manufacturer](#) was identified; of these 28 cases, 25 were domestic and 27 had warnings. In 58 percent of the cases, individuals reported knowing that magnets were dangerous; 44.3 percent believed they were children's toys, and only 6.9 percent reported knowing that high-powered magnets had previously been removed from the U.S. market.

"Injuries caused by high-powered magnets are likely to continue without federal effort to remove these products from the market," the authors write.

**More information:** Leah K. Middelberg et al, Warning Labels and High-Powered Magnet Exposures, *Pediatrics* (2022). [DOI: 10.1542/peds.2022-056325](#)

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