



Surveillance System on Suffocation Injuries due to Foreign Bodies in Children

Suffocation due to foreign bodies (FB) is a leading cause of death in children aged 0-3 and it is common also in older ages, up to 14 years. Recent data indicates that the estimated number of incidents per year in children aged 0-14 is in EU of about 50.000, 1% of which are fatal. Among them, about 10.000 accidents involve inorganic objects, in general industrial products, mostly plastic and metal parts, coins, and toys. **Out of the estimated 2.000 incidents per year involving toys, the fatalities are about 20.**

Susy Safe is a surveillance registry for injuries due to food and non-food foreign body ingestion, aspiration, inhalation or insertion, gathering data from all EU countries and beyond, in order to:

- provide a risk-analysis profile for each of the products causing the injury with the aim of:
 - creating a surveillance systems** for suffocation injuries caused to young consumers by inappropriate product design or packaging;
 - helping to guarantee the safety of consumers, indicating products whose risk profile is clearly not compatible with a safe fruition of the product itself;
 - providing the EU Commission with comparative data on risk/benefit of each of the products causing the injuries, in order to weight acceptable risks versus the foreseen economic impact of recalling the product involved from the market;
- **provide an evaluation** of how socio-economic disparities among EU citizens may affect the likelihood of being injured by FB ingestion, with the aim of implementing specific educational activities on safe behaviour and active parental guard with regards to the specific products causing the injury;
- **involve Consumer Associations and/or National Market Surveillance Authorities** in data collection and proper education of consumers, allowing a precise estimate of the risk profiles for those products which are actually causing the injury, but, because of the low impact in terms of child health (self resolved FB ingestions) are usually under reported and not known in the official clinical discharge data.

Cases are anonymously reported from physicians, ORL experts, pneumologists, general practitioners, using a standardized Web form.

In order to participate, the investigators need to subscribe to the project.

Main scientific papers using the overall data will be published using the formula "**The SUSY SAFE Working Group**", with a list of all enrolling centers, recognizing in this way the contribution of each investigator as a co-author.

