
NASPGHAN
714 N Bethlehem Pike
Suite 300
Ambler, PA 19002
215-641-9800
naspgghan@naspgghan.org



PRESIDENT

Jenifer R. Lightdale, MD, MPH
Boston Children's Hospital
Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition
300 Longwood Avenue, Fegan, 5th Floor
Boston, MA 02115
617-355-6058
jenifer.lightdale@childrens.harvard.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Vicky Lee Ng, MD
Hospital for Sick Children
555 University Ave 8th Flr-Rm 8262
Div of GI/Nutrition
Toronto, ON M5G 1X8 Canada
416-813-6263
vicky.ng@sickkids.ca

PAST PRESIDENT

Benjamin D. Gold, MD
GI Care for Kids, LLC
Children's Center for Digestive Healthcare LLC
993-D Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite 440
Atlanta, GA 30342
404-257-0799
bgold@gicareforkids.com

SECRETARY – TREASURER

Manu Sood, MD
Univ of Illinois College of Medicine
530 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61637
309-655-4242
mrsood@uic.edu

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Jorge Chavez Saenz, MD
Zapopan, Jalisco, Mexico

José Garza, MD
Atlanta, GA

Christine Lee, MD
Boston, MA

Elizabeth Mileti, MD
Las Vegas, NV

Veronique Morinville, MD
Montreal, PQ

Jennifer Strople, MD
Chicago, IL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Margaret K. Stallings
mstallings@naspgghan.org

NASPGHAN Annual Meeting
November 6-9, 2024
Hollywood, FL

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robin Kelly
2329 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Brittany Pettersen
1230 Longworth House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone, Rep. Kelly and Rep. Pettersen:

The North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (NASPGHAN) is pleased to offer its endorsement of the Ban Water Beads Act (H.R. 6468) and commends you for your leadership to protect children from these harmful consumer products that can cause severe internal injury or death because of their inability to move effectively through the digestive tract.

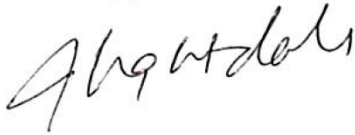
NASPGHAN members are routinely called upon to care for children with a known or suspected water bead ingestion. When water bead ingestions go unwitnessed, there can be delays with diagnosis — days or even months — because these products cannot be visualized with a simple X-ray scan. The difficulty of a diagnosis is further complicated by the fact that symptoms caused by the ingestion can mimic symptoms common with viral infections.

Because of the promotion of water beads as non-toxic, eco-friendly, biodegradable sensory toys, parents may under-estimate the risk they pose if they are ingested. We commend the Consumer Product Safety Commission for their recent recalls of certain water bead products and for making safety resources and educational materials available to the public. However, the most effective way to prevent injury and harm to children caused by water beads when they are ingested, inserted or inhaled is to ban their sale, and this is why NASPGHAN endorses H.R. 6468 and calls for its passage by Congress this year.

Like high-powered magnet sets — a hazardous consumer product that also can result in grave injury and death when two or more are ingested — water beads are often packaged in large quantities. As a result, even when use of the product is under adult supervision, beads can roll or bounce far beyond their initial area use and can be later discovered by a child. These beads resemble edible items like candy, making them highly attractive to children.

On behalf of NASPGHAN and its physician members, I commend you for your leadership on this important issue. For questions or additional information, please contact Camille Bonta, NASPGHAN policy advisor, at cbonta@summithealthconsulting or (202) 320-3658.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenifer Lightdale". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenifer" being more prominent than the last name "Lightdale".

Jenifer Lightdale, MD
President
NASPGHAN