

AirPods inside



- 1 Brad Gauthier, 38, knew something was wrong when he was left gagging while attempting to drink a glass of water after waking up early on Tuesday morning. When he leaned over he was able to recover, the water spilling out of his mouth.
- 2 He managed to get through the day, not realising the severity of what had happened overnight despite feeling a strange sensation in his chest. However, the pieces started to come together after his family, including his wife Heather and son Owen, helped him look for a missing earbud. When they heard something was wrong with his throat, they joked that maybe he swallowed it. Brad said: 'We all laughed about it, but then something just clicked and I got a weird sinking feeling that I'd swallowed it in my sleep. At that point, we all determined it would be better to be safe than sorry and go to hospital.'
- 3 At the hospital, the staff at first suggested that food from his wife's birthday celebrations from the previous night might be the cause of his discomfort. However, X-rays soon proved this to be wrong. Brad said: 'It was pretty funny. When the radiologist left the room I could hear a bit of chatter outside – "No, it couldn't be?" She came back in, looked at me and said: "I could not believe it, but you swallowed it." She was stunned, looking at my X-ray on the screen where you could see it in such clear definition.'
- 4 Brad believes that after going to bed with his headphones in, the AirPod somehow entered his mouth while he was sleeping. It turned out he had been incredibly lucky, because the AirPod somehow became stuck in a position that had prevented it from causing serious damage. He said: 'Had I inhaled it so that it constricted my airway, that could have certainly been a much more serious matter.' The AirPod was removed successfully with Brad thanking staff for their efforts. He was even able to have a meal with his wife shortly afterwards. Sadly, he said jokingly, even though the headphone still works, the microphone function is now broken.

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