

# Faster Care for Minor Emergencies

When 9-year-old John Skinner attended his cousin's birthday party in Lakewood earlier this year, he never could have imagined he'd require emergency care that same day.

"Toward the end of the party, John said he could feel something stuck in his throat," says his mom, Debi Skinner. "When he opened his mouth I could see a small piece of hard plastic. I tried every avenue to get it out, but it wouldn't budge. He was getting really upset and scared."

John's dad took him to the nearby Ocean Care Center in Point Pleasant for care.

## Providing Emergency Care Close to Home

"Ocean Care Center is a full-service satellite Emergency Department," says Bradley Pulver, M.D., medical director of the Department of Emergency Medicine at Ocean Medical Center. "We're open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, just like a typical Emergency Department."

The Center has the capability to provide a full scope of emergency services for patients, and it's a more convenient option for minor emergencies, including:

- Upper respiratory infections
- Allergic reactions
- Sprains
- Broken bones
- Lacerations
- Minor trauma
- Minor illnesses

"Ocean Care Center's focus on treating minor emergencies means wait times are usually lower than you'd find in a typical Emergency Department,"

Dr. Pulver says. "On average, most visits last less than an hour and a half from start to finish."

For more serious issues, such as chest pain or symptoms of a stroke, specialists



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at Ocean Care Center can stabilize patients and transfer them to Ocean Medical Center for more intensive care, Dr. Pulver adds.

## Speedy, Patient-Centered Care

At Ocean Care Center, John saw three different providers: Doreen Caravelle, R.N.; Mark Middleton, P.A.; and Prudencio Reyes, M.D.

"Every single person was amazing in calming him down," Debi says. "They quickly identified the problem, immediately saw his fears, and reassured him that he'd be OK."

Using special tweezers, the team removed the piece of plastic, which may have come from an icing container, within a matter of seconds. They reevaluated him to make sure there weren't any other complications, such as bleeding, and gave him the green light to go home.

Debi feels relieved knowing that Ocean Care Center is close to home. "I have all the confidence in the world in the medical staff, but was truly blown away at what an incredible job they did of soothing John's fears and treating him not just as a patient, but as a person." ●

## Get Wait Times Online!



Now it's easier than ever to plan a trip to Ocean Care Center. Visit [OceanCareCenter.com](http://OceanCareCenter.com) to get up-to-the-minute wait times and much more.

John Skinner is an active 9-year-old who lives in Point Pleasant and plays soccer for Brick. He also enjoys playing the drums, keyboard, and guitar, so he didn't have time to get slowed down when something got lodged in his throat at a birthday party. Fortunately, Ocean Care Center was able to treat him and get him back in action quickly.