

Chloramphenicol Topical

Newborn use only

2019

Alert	Eye ointment remains in the eye for longer than eye drops and may be the preferred dose form.
Indication	Treatment of acute bacterial conjunctivitis
Action	Bacteriostatic. Acts by inhibition of protein synthesis, interfering with the transfer of activated amino acids from soluble RNA to ribosomes.
Drug Type	Broad spectrum antibiotic
Trade Name	Chloromycetin, Chlorsig
Presentation	Chloramphenicol 0.5% contains 5 mg/mL
Dosage/Interval	Ointment: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Apply 3 to 4 times a day in the affected eye and continue for 48 hours after clinical resolution.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Severe infection: May need more often at the discretion of the treating team.</p> DROPS: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Severe infection: Apply 1 drop every 2 hours in the affected eye for 48 hours and reduce frequency with controlling of infection.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Less severe infection: Apply 3 to 4 times a day in the affected eye</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Continue for 48 hours after clinical resolution</p> Drops and Ointment combination: <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Apply drops during the day as above</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Apply ointment once at night</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Continue for 48 hours after clinical resolution.</p>
Maximum daily dose	
Route	TOPICAL ONLY
Administration	Avoid contact between tip of container and infant's eyes. Eye ointment: Hold eye open and administer eye ointment between the lower lid and the eye. Eye drop: After administering eye drop, gently press against the lacrimal duct (inner corner of eye) to reduce systemic absorption. The eye pouch will be full after a single drop. If other eye drop(s) need to be administered, wait 5 minutes between drops.
Monitoring	
Contraindications	History of hypersensitivity to chloramphenicol or any other component of the medication.
Precautions	Family history of blood disorders
Drug Interactions	
Adverse Reactions	Local irritation e.g. burning, swelling, redness; impaired corneal healing; superinfection; hypersensitivity including sensitisation, urticaria, rash, fever, angioedema, anaphylaxis, blood dyscrasia (rare). Acute hepatitis was reported in an adult following topical chloramphenicol therapy for conjunctivitis. Bone marrow hypoplasia, including aplastic anaemia and death, has been rarely reported following local application of chloramphenicol. Overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms.
Compatibility	No information
Incompatibility	No information
Storage	Eye drop: Store unopened bottle at 2–8°C. Once opened, bottle may be stored at <25°C for 28 days. Protect from light. Eye Ointment: Store below 25°C. Discard 28 days after opening. Protect from light.
Special Comments	
Evidence summary	Refer to full version.
References	Refer to full version.

Original version Date: 21/06/2019	Author: ANMF Consensus Group
Current Version number: 1.0	Current Version Date: 21/06/2019
Risk Rating: Low	Due for Review: 21/06/2024
Approved by:	Approval date

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