Chloramphenicol

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects to your local hospital at once. Always take the container with you, if possible, even if empty. If you develop a new eye infection during this treatment, you should stop using the drops and speak to your doctor.

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2. What you need to know before you use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
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What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are and what they are used for
Chloramphenicol belongs to a group of medicines called antibiotics. An antibiotic is a medicine which is used for the treatment of a variety of infections caused by bacteria. Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are used in both adults and children for the treatment of a wide range of eye infections caused by bacteria.

What you need to know before you use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
Do not use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops if:
- you are allergic to chloramphenicol or any of the other ingredients of this medicine listed in section 6
- you or someone in your family ever had a blood disorder or bone marrow disease including anaemia (decrease in the number of red blood cells) when using chloramphenicol in the past. you have a family history of ‘dyscrasias’, a condition which can cause tiredness, bruising and an increased risk of infections
- you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.
- you have visual disturbances
- you have severe pain in the eye
- you are sensitive to light
- your eye is inflamed and you have a rash on the scalp or face
- your eye looks cloudy
- your black or coloured part of the eye looks unusual
- you have a foreign body in the eye
- you have an eye infection that keeps coming back
- you have glaucoma (raised pressure in the eye)
- you have dry eyes
- you have eye injury or eye surgery
- you are currently using any other eye drops or eye ointments.

Take special care:
- If you develop a new eye infection during this treatment, you should stop using the drops and speak to your doctor.
- If you use chloramphenicol eye drops for a long time, your doctor may do some blood tests to check for any problems.
- Other medicines and Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines.
- In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:
  - medicines for cancer such as methotrexate
  - medicines for the immune system such as azathioprine
  - the dietary supplement chymotrypsin

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Chloramphenicol should not be used during pregnancy and breast-feeding unless considered essential by your doctor, as the effects are unknown. If you are a pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before using this medicine.

Chloramphenicol Eye Drops can cause temporary blurring of vision after application. Wait until your vision is clear before driving or using machines.

Chloramphenicol contains:
Chloramphenicol eye drops contain phenylmercuric nitrate as a preservative which may cause allergic reaction. Do not wear contact lenses during treatment.

3. How to use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Contact lenses should be taken out before treatment with Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

Instructions for use:
1. Wash your hands well before use
2. Remove the outer cap. You may find it easier to apply your drops in front of a mirror
3. Tilt the head back and pull the lower lid of the eye out to form a pocket
4. Hold the container between the thumb and middle finger of the other hand, turn the container upside down near to the eye, try not to touch the eye with the nozzle.
5. Apply enough pressure to the container to release one to two drops
6. Blink the eye a few times
7. If you think that you have missed the eye, then insert another drop
8. Repeat in the other eye if you have been told to use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops in both eyes
9. Replace the outer cap on the container, try not to touch the applicator tip with anything, including the eye or the fingers
10. Wash your hands.

How much to use
One to two drops should be applied to each affected eye up to six times daily or more frequently if required. Severe infections may require one or two drops every fifteen to twenty minutes initially, reducing the frequency of use as the infection is controlled.

Prolonged use of Chloramphenicol Eye Drops is not advisable. You should not use this product for longer than 3 days at a time unless your doctor has told you otherwise.

Use in children:
Dosage adjustment may be necessary in newborn infants to reduce the risk of adverse effects. The maximum duration of treatment is 10-14 days.

If you use more chloramphenicol than you should
Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are for external use only. If you suspect someone has swallowed any Chloramphenicol Eye Drops, contact your doctor or go to the accident and emergency department of your local hospital at once. Always take the container with you, if possible, even if empty. If you accidentally apply too much drops, you should wash your eye with plenty of water. If any painful symptoms continue after this, you should tell your doctor immediately.

If you forget to use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
Try not to miss doses. If you do miss a dose, do not worry, just carry on as normal. Do not use extra drops to make up.

4. Possible side effects
Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.
- Stinging
- Blurred vision after application
- Tearing
- Redness
- Stinging
- Blurred vision before driving or using machines
- Vision is clear before driving or using machines
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Yawning
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Infection of the eye
- Allergic reaction
- Damage to parts of the eye
- Bone marrow depression (a condition where the marrow is unable to produce red blood cells)
- Reduced production and death of red blood cells (anemia)
- (swollen) or blotchy, or look like little blisters.
- Rash that increases in size and affects the face, lips or tongue, itching or rash over the body
- A sore throat, bruising or being unable to breathe
- Wheeziness (shortness of breath), fever, swelling of your face, lips or tongue, itching or rash with swelling of skin (the rash could be puffy (swollen) or itchy, or look like little blisters).

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Chloramphenicol Eye Drops
Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
Do not use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops after the expiry date printed on the bottle label. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month. Once you have opened the bottle use within 4 weeks.

You are advised to dispose of the bottle once you have finished your 5 day course of treatment. This medicine needs to be stored upright between 2-8°C (in a refrigerator). Protect from light. Do not allow it to freeze.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information
What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops contains
The active ingredient is Chloramphenicol 0.5% w/v.

The other ingredients are Purified Water, Bonic Acid, Borax and Phenylmercuric Nitrate 0.002% w/v.

What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops look like and contents of the pack
Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are supplied in plastic bottles, each bottle containing 10ml of sterile solution.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
MartinDale Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Bampton Road, Romford, RM3 8UG, England
Manufacturer:
PAMA S.A.
63 Ag Dimitriou str.
17456 Athens, Greece

If you would like any more information, or would like the leaflet in a different format, please contact Medical Information at the address above.

Product Licence Numbers:
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to 0004
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