Chloramphenicol 0.5% w/v Eye Drops

1. What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are and what they are used for

Chloramphenicol belongs to a group of medicines called antibiotics. Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are used for the treatment of bacterial conjunctivitis (infection of the eye) which may make it difficult to open the eye. When put in the eye, chloramphenicol works by helping kill the bacteria (germs) and allow the body to overcome the infection.

2. Before you use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops

Do not wear contact lenses during treatment. If you use contact lenses, remove them before using the drops. You should not wear contact lenses until 24 hours after the end of treatment.

Do NOT use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops if you answer to the following questions is yes:
• Have you ever had an allergy reaction to chloramphenicol or to any of the other ingredients listed in this leaflet?
• Have you or someone in your family ever had a blood disorder or bone marrow disease including anemia (decrease in the number of red blood cells)?

Take Special Care:
If any new infection appears during treatment, you should stop taking the drops and speak to your doctor.

Take special care with Chloramphenicol Eye Drops and talk with your doctor or pharmacist before taking your medicines:
• You have visual disturbances
• You have severe pain in the eye
• You are sensitive to light
• Your eye looks cloudy
• The black or coloured part of the eye looks yellow or 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 ointment

Using other medicines:
Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. They may be affected by Chloramphenicol or affect how well the drops work.

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.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding:
The drops should not be used in pregnancy unless your doctor feels that it is clearly needed, as the effects are unknown. The drops should not be used whilst breast feeding. Tell your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding so that a different medicine can be considered.

Driving and using machines:
If the drops blur your vision, do not drive or operate machines until you can see clearly.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Chloramphenicol Eye Drops:
This medicine also contains phenylmercuric nitrate as a preservative and it is possible that you may experience an allergic reaction. Tell your doctor if you have any known allergies.

3. How to use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops

Always use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Adults, children and infants: The recommended dosage is two drops to be applied to the affected eye every 3 hours or more frequently if required. Continue treatment at least 48 hours after the eye appears normal.

Directions for use:
1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Open the bottle. Be careful not to touch or breathe on the tip of the bottle.
3. Tilt your head backwards while seated or lying down on your back.
4. Look straight upwards and gently pull down the lower lid downward.
5. Place the tip of the bottle close to your eye. Make sure the tip of the bottle does not touch the eye or skin around the eye and your fingers.
6. Squeeze the bottle gently, allow two drops to fall between the bottom eyelid and eye.
7. Repeat steps 4 to 6 for the second eye if it is infected.
8. Replace the cap securely after use. Make sure your fingers do not touch the tip of the bottle.

What to do if you miss a dose: If you forget to apply a dose, apply it as soon as you remember unless it is time for your next dose. Do not apply two doses at the same time.

What to do if you overdose: 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.

After taking your Chloramphenicol Eye Drops:
• Symptoms should start to improve after 24 hours. If symptoms do not improve in 48 hours, speak to your doctor.
• Repeated use or long periods of treatment with Chloramphenicol Eye Drops can cause the infection to become resistant to treatment.
• Seek immediate medical advice if symptoms worsen at any time.
• If you have a severe infection, you may also be given antibiotics to take by mouth.

4. Possible side effects

Along with the relief of symptoms a medicine may produce side effects. Most people taking this medicine find that it causes no problems. A few people can be allergic to Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

• You may notice that your eyes burn or sting for a short while after using the drops. If prolonged irritation, swelling, watery eyes or sensitivity to light occurs, then the exposed eye should be washed with water for 15 minutes. If the symptoms continue after this, an eye examination may be required.

Stop taking your medicine and tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately if you experience the following side effects:
• Wheeziness (shortness of breath), fever, swelling of your face, lips or tongue, itching, rash with swelling of the skin (the rash could be purplish (swollen) or blisterly, or look like little blisters)
• A sore throat, bruising or being unable to overcome an infection. On very rare occasions, patients using Chloramphenicol have had changes in their blood cells causing severe tiredness or easy bruising.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if:
• Any of the effects gets serious
• You notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet.

5. How to store Chloramphenicol Eye Drops

Keep Chloramphenicol Eye Drops out of the sight and reach of children.

Store in a refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C. Protect from light by storing in the original packaging.

Do not use Chloramphenicol Eye Drops after the expiry date (the expiry date is shown on the bottle or carton). Discard the drops 38 days after opening. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of them.

6. Further information

What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops contain:
The active substance is chloramphenicol.

The other active ingredients are borax, boric acid, phenylmercuric nitrate, water for injection.

What Chloramphenicol Eye Drops look like and contains of the pack:
Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are supplied in a flexible bottle with a plastic plug and cap assembly. Each 1ml of eye drops contains 5 milligrams of Chloramphenicol. Bottle sizes are 5ml and 10ml.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
Mercury Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
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Manufacturer:
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