What is this leaflet about?

1. What Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment is and what it is used for

Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment is used in both adults and children to treat acute bacterial conjunctivitis, which is an infection of the outer surface of the eye that causes redness, discomfort and discharge from the affected eye.

Your doctor can provide further advice about these symptoms.

The active ingredient of Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment is chloramphenicol, which is an antibiotic.

2. What you need to know before you use Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment

- Do not use if you are sensitive/allergic to chloramphenicol or to any of the other ingredients in this product.
- Do not use if you have had blood or bone marrow problems.

Take special care with Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment if:

- You have visual disturbances.
- You have severe pain in the eye.
- You are sensitive to light.
- You have eye injury or eye surgery.
- You are currently using any other eye drops or eye ointment.
- You are pregnant or intending to become pregnant.
- You are breast feeding.
- You are taking other medicines.
- You have problems with your blood (in particular very low numbers of blood cells) after taking of chloramphenicol.

3. How to use Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment

Always use Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

The recommended dose for adults, children and infants of all age groups is 1cm of ointment applied to the eye. A small amount of ointment to be applied into the affected eye every three hours or more frequently if required, as directed by your doctor.

Chloramphenicol may not work against certain types of infections. If your symptoms are not getting better you should tell your doctor immediately.

In children:

- Do not use for children under the age of one.
- Do not use for children whose eyes are sore, as this may cause pain and discomfort.

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When Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment is given by mouth or by injection, it may cause drops of the numbers of all types of blood cells leading to anaemia, infections and easy bruising and bleeding. Very occasionally, these effects cannot be reversed and have been fatal. Although only very small amounts of Chloramphenicol are absorbed from the eye ointment into your bloodstream, there have been reports of these severe effects even with eye ointment.

Tell your doctor immediately if:

- You have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If you get any of the side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start to take your medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If you get any of the side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

Apply your eye ointment in the following way:

1. Remove the cap.
2. Squeeze the tube gently and apply about 1cm of ointment to the space between the lower eyelid and the eye.
3. Close your eye for a few minutes.
4. Wash your hands before applying the eye ointment.

Other medicines and Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are:

- Sensitive/allergic to chloramphenicol or any of the other ingredients in this product.
- Taking any of the following:
- Medicines for cancer such as methotrexate.
- Medicines for the immune system such as azathioprine.
- Medicines for tuberculosis such as rifampicin.
- Other medicines that may affect the immune system.

If you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Very severe side effects:

- You have visual disturbances.
- You have severe pain in the eye.
- You are sensitive to light.
- You have eye injury or eye surgery.
- You are currently using any other eye drops or eye ointment.
- You are pregnant or intending to become pregnant.
- You are breast feeding.
- You are taking other medicines.
- You have problems with your blood (in particular very low numbers of blood cells) after taking of chloramphenicol.

Other severe side effects:

- Swelling of your face and neck.
- Difficulty in breathing.
- A drop in blood pressure and unconsciousness.
- High temperature.
- Rashes that may be red and raised and may blister.

Less severe side effects:

- Allergic reactions that affect only the eye and can cause redness and itching, with swelling of the eyelids.

Other side effects:

- Burning or stinging in and around the eye.
- If you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

While you are taking Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment you should:

- Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not store the tube above 25°C.
- Protect from light.
- Do not use this medicine for longer than 28 days after first opening the tube.

Any eye ointment left in the tube after this time should be returned to your pharmacist.

Do not use Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment after the expiry date which is stated on the tube and on the carton the tube is packed in.

Medicine 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.

To dispose of any remaining ointment and any container:

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- Medicine 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

The active ingredient of Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment is chloramphenicol, which is an antibiotic.

The product contains 1% w/w chloramphenicol which is equivalent to 10 mg of chloramphenicol per ml. This product also contains liquid paraffin and white soft paraffin as excipients.

What Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment contains:

- The active ingredient is chloramphenicol.
- The ointment contains 1% w/w chloramphenicol which is equivalent to 10 mg of chloramphenicol per ml.
- The product also contains liquid paraffin and white soft paraffin as excipients.

What Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment looks like and contents of the pack:

Each tube of Chloramphenicol Eye Ointment contains 4 grams of ointment.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

Martindale Pharmaceuticals Ltd
Tik Martindale Pharmaceuticals
Bampton Road, Romford RM3 8UG, United Kingdom

Manufacturer

TUBESK PHARMA S.P.A
Via Costantia 26/22
Pomezia 00071 (RM), ITALY
PL number 00156/0360

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