

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION



CHLORAMPHENICOL EYE DROPS

Contains the active ingredient chloramphenicol

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

Read this leaflet carefully before taking your medicine.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the last page. More recent information on this medicine may be available.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist:

- if there is anything you do not understand in this leaflet,
- if you are worried about taking your medicine, or
- to obtain the most up-to-date information.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor or pharmacist has weighed the risks of you using this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

Pharmaceutical companies cannot give you medical advice or an individual diagnosis.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine. You may need to read it again.

WHAT THIS MEDICINE IS USED FOR

The name of your medicine is Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops. It contains the active ingredient chloramphenicol.

It is a topical antibiotic eyedrop used to treat bacterial conjunctivitis.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you

How it works

Bacterial conjunctivitis is a highly contagious bacterial infection involving the mucous membrane of the surface of the eye.

The common symptoms are the presence of a sticky yellow-white discharge with mucus and pus (or glued eyes, especially in the morning on waking), a gritty sensation in the eye, irritation and redness of the eye and watery eyes. The infection usually starts in one eye and then spreads to the other.

Chloramphenicol belongs to a group of medicines called antibiotics. It works by stopping the growth of the bacteria causing your infection. There is no evidence that this medicine is addictive.

Use in children

This medicine should not be used in children under 2 years of age unless on medical advice.

BEFORE YOU USE THIS MEDICINE

When you must not use it

Do not use this medicine if:

- you are allergic to medicines containing chloramphenicol or any other similar medicine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing, wheezing or shortness of breath

If you think you are having an allergic reaction, do not use any more of the medicine and contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department at the nearest hospital.

- the expiry date (Exp.) printed on the pack has passed.
- you have or have had anaemia, bone marrow problems, bleeding or other blood disorders.

- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Contact lens wearers should not use chloramphenicol eye preparations except on the advice of a doctor or optometrist.

People who wear contact lenses are at greater risk of eye infections and it is more likely that their eye infections are not sensitive to chloramphenicol.

Use of chloramphenicol eye preparations can delay the diagnosis of potentially sight-threatening eye conditions.

If you bought this medicine without a prescription and/or without prior consultation from a doctor or optometrist, it is important to check the following list. Speak to your doctor or optometrist if any of these apply to you before you start to use Chloramphenicol:

- Pain in the eye (rather than just feeling sore or gritty), swelling around the eye, blurred vision or sensitivity to light.
- Loss of, reduced or blurred vision.
- Cloudy eye
- Abnormal pupil (the black circle in the centre of the eye may be torn, not round, very big or does not change size in the light).
- There is copious yellow-green purulent discharge that accumulates after being wiped away.
- Injury to the eye.
- Foreign body in the eye.
- Welding without eye protection immediately before eye symptoms appeared.
- Glaucoma
- Using other eye drops or eye ointments.
- Similar symptoms in the past.
- Had eye surgery or laser treatment in the past six months
- Feeling unwell
- Recent overseas travel.
- Wearing contact lenses.

Before you start to use it

Before you start using it, tell your doctor or pharmacist if:

1. you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

2. you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using this medicine during pregnancy.

3. you are breastfeeding.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using this medicine when breastfeeding.

4. you are taking or using any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops and some other medicines may interfere with each other. These include other eyedrops or eye ointment.

Your doctor or pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

HOW TO USE THIS MEDICINE

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to use

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you the right amount to use. The dose of Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops may be different for different people.

Place one or two drops in the affected eye(s) every 2 to 6 hours for 2 to 3 days. The interval between doses may then be increased.

How to use it

Wash your hands.

Tilt your head back and pull the lower lid away from your eye to make a space and drop the medicine into this space. Let go of your eyelid and gently close your eyes. Try not to blink.

Keep your eyes closed for 1 to 2 minutes to allow the medicine to come into contact with the infection.

While your eyes are closed, apply gentle pressure by placing your index finger against the inside corner of your eye (tear duct) for a few minutes after placing the drops in the eye. This will reduce the amount of medicine absorbed into the blood stream or other parts of the body. This is very important when administering to children.

To keep the medicine as germ free as possible, do not touch the tip of the bottle to any surface including the eye.

When to use it

Use Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops at about the same time each day. Using it at the same time each day will help you remember when to use it.

How long to use it for

Continue using Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops for as long as your doctor or pharmacist recommends.

Normally treatment is continued for at least 2 days after the eye appears normal.

Do not use for more than 5 days in total except on the advice of your doctor or optometrist.

If you forget to use it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and instil your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, instil a dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking using your medicine as you would normally.

Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose you missed. This may increase the chance of getting an unwanted side effect.

If you have trouble remembering when to use it or are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist for some hints to help you.

If you use too much (overdose)

Rinse your eye with large amounts of water (room temperature) for at least 15 minutes if pain, swelling, excessive tears or an uncomfortable sensitivity to the light is experienced after application of Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

Contact your doctor or pharmacist if symptoms are still present after thoroughly rinsing your eye.

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you think that you, an infant or young child may have accidentally swallowed the contents of this medicine.

This does even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You or the child may need urgent medical attention.

If pain, swelling, excessive tears or an uncomfortable sensitivity to the light is experienced after application of this medicine, rinse your eye with large amounts of water (room temperature) for at least 15 minutes. Contact your doctor if symptoms are still present after thoroughly rinsing your eye.

WHILE YOU ARE USING THIS MEDICINE

Things you must do

Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are using Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using this medicine.

Use it exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has prescribed.

If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within 48 hours, or if they become worse, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Stop using Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops and tell your doctor or pharmacist if irritation occurs or you experience an allergic reaction.

Things you must not do

- Do not:
 - use it for longer than your doctor or pharmacist has prescribed.
 - stop using your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor or pharmacist, the infection may not be completely cured. The bacteria may grow again and your symptoms may return.
- use it to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.
- give it to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Things to be careful of

Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how this medicine affects you. Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol may distort your vision temporarily. It may also cause tiredness. Make sure you know how you react to it before you drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well during or after using Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops. It helps most people with eye infections but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

• temporary itching, burning or stinging eyes.

The above side effects are usually mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- eye soreness, redness or swelling that was not present before treatment or that worsens after treatment
- skin rash, itching or swelling
- fever
- unusual tiredness, weakness, bleeding or bruising more easily than normal.

The above list includes very serious side effects, which may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Allergic Reactions

If you think you are having an allergic reaction to Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops, stop using it and tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include some or all of the following:

- fever, swelling of the face, lips, mouth or sore throat that may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing,
- shortness of breath, swelling of the hands, feet or ankles

The above list includes serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

STORAGE AND DISPOSAL

Storage

Keep the unopened bottles in the refrigerator, where the temperature stays between 2°C and 8°C and where children cannot reach it. The top shelf of the refrigerator at the back is a good place to store it.

After opening, keep your eye drops in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Protect from light. Keep it where children cannot reach it. A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Keep your eye drops in the bottle until it is time to use them. If you use the eye drops out of the bottle they may not keep well.

Discard unused eye drops within 4 weeks after opening.

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink or in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using it, or it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops should be discarded within 4 weeks after opening.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

What it looks like

Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops are in 10 mL plastic dropper bottle.

Ingredients

Each 1 mL of Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops contains 5 mg of chloramphenicol.

The eye drops also contain:

- phenylmercuric nitrate
- boric acid
- borax
- Water for injections

Australian Registration Numbers:

Pharmacy Health Chloramphenicol Eye Drops – AUST R 330170

Supplier

Pharmacy Health
250 Camberwell Road,
Camberwell, Victoria 3124,
Australia.

This leaflet was last updated in August 2019.