
CHLORAMPHENICOL 1% w/w Eye Ointment

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

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

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor or optometrist has weighed the risks of you taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or optometrist.

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

WHAT CHLORAMPHENICOL 1% w/w Eye Ointment IS USED FOR

Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment is used to treat an eye infection called bacterial conjunctivitis. Bacterial conjunctivitis is a bacterial infection involving the mucous membrane of the surface of the eye. The most common symptom is the presence of a sticky yellow-white discharge with mucus and pus (or glued eyes, especially in the morning on waking). Other symptoms include a gritty sensation in the eye, redness, irritation and watering of the eyes. The infection usually starts in one eye and then spreads to the other.

Ask your doctor or optometrist if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor or optometrist may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is not addictive.
It is available only by pharmacist.

There is not enough information to recommend the use of this medicine for children.

BEFORE YOU USE CHLORAMPHENICOL Eye Ointment

When you must not use it

Do not use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment if you are allergic to:

- **Chloramphenicol** or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- Other antibiotic eye drops or eye ointments

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction to **Chloramphenicol** may include irritation, pain and swelling in the eye. Skin rashes, blisters and fever may also occur.

Do not use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment and talk to your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist straight away if any of the following applies to you.

- You have pain within your eye (rather than just feeling sore or gritty) and swelling around the eye, blurred vision or sensitivity to light
- Your 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

- Your eye looks cloudy
- There is copious yellow-green purulent discharge that accumulates after being wiped away
- You have injured your eye
- You have been welding without eye protection immediately before your eye symptoms appeared
- You have glaucoma
- You have dry eye syndrome
- You are using other eye drops or eye ointments
- You have had similar symptoms in the past few weeks
- You feel unwell
- You have had eye surgery or laser treatment in the past six months
- Recent overseas travel
- You wear contact lenses

If you wear contact lenses and your doctor or optometrist has advised you to use **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment**, do not wear contact lenses during the course of **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** treatment. If you wear hard or disposable contact lenses, you can start using contact lenses again after successfully completing the course of treatment. If wearing soft contact lenses, you should wait 24 hours after successfully completing a course of treatment before starting to use contact lenses again.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack and blister.

If you use it after the expiry date has passed, it may have no effect at all, or worse, there may be an entirely unexpected effect.

The expiry date is printed on tube and box after “EXP” (e.g. 11 18 refers to November 2018). The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. If it has expired return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

Do not take this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If the packaging is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

Do not give Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment to children under 2 years of age unless your doctor or optometrist tells you.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or optometrist.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist if:

- 1. You are allergic to any other medicines or any foods, dyes or preservatives**
- 2. You have surgery (including dental surgery) using a general anesthetic**
- 3. You have any other medical conditions/health problems**
- 4. You are pregnant or plan to become pregnant**

Your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist will advise you of the risks and benefits of taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment in pregnancy.

- 5. You are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed**

Your pharmacist or doctor will advise you of the risks and benefits of taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment while breastfeeding.

If you have not told your doctor or optometrist about any of the above, tell him/her before you use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or optometrist if you are taking any other medicines, including those that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** may interfere with each other. These include other eye drops and eye ointments.

These medicines may either reduce or increase the effectiveness of **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment**, reduce its own effectiveness and/or react with **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** resulting in untoward or sometimes dangerous side effects.

Your doctor, pharmacist or optometrist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while using **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment**.

HOW TO USE CHLORAMPHENICOL 1% w/w Eye Ointment

Follow all directions given to you by your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions printed on the pharmacist label, ask your pharmacist, doctor for help.

How much to use

Your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist will tell you how much and how often you should use **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment**.

The dose of **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** may be different for each person and their medical condition. Your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist will recommend the right dose for you.

Do not use **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** in children under 2 years of age except on doctor or optometrist's advice.

The usual dose of **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** for adults and children (2 years and over) is:

Apply 1.5 cm of eye ointment every three hours for up to 5 days or as directed by your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist. If the condition does not get better after 2 days, consult your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist.

How to apply the eye ointment

- Wash hands thoroughly before and after use
- Tilt head back gently
- Gently pull lower eyelid down
- Squeeze 1.5 cm of eye ointment inside the lower eyelid, but do not let the tip of the tube touch the eye, eyelids or lashes
- Release the eyelid slowly and close eyes gently for 1-2 minutes or blink a few times to help spread the ointment over the eye
- Blot excessive ointment from around the eye with a tissue
- To minimize contamination, do not allow the tip to contact the surface of the eye.
- Vision may be temporarily blurred. Avoid activities that require good visual ability until vision clears.
- To minimize contamination, do not allow the tip to contact the surface of the eye.

How long to use it

Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment should be used for up to 5 days or as directed by your doctor, pharmacist or optometrist.

If you forget to take it

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

Otherwise, use it as soon as you remember, and then go back to using it as you would normally.

Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are unsure about whether to use your next dose, speak to your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist.

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

IN CASE OF OVERDOSE

If you take too much (overdose)

Accidental ingestion of the drug in adults is unlikely to cause any toxicity due to low content of antibiotic, but consult your doctor or Poison Information Centre (see below).

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (New Zealand: 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to the Accident and Emergency department at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. Urgent medical attention may be needed.

WHILE YOU ARE USING CHLORAMPHENICOL Eye Ointment

Things you must do

Use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment exactly as your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist has prescribed.

Tell all doctors, optometrists, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

If you become pregnant while you are taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment, tell your doctor or optometrist immediately.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist that you are taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

Always discuss with your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist any problems or difficulties during or after taking Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

Tell your doctor, optometrist or pharmacist if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise your doctor, optometrist or pharmacist may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Things you must not do

Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment affects you.

Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment may distort your vision temporarily. Make sure you know how you react to **Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment** before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Do not use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment for a longer time than your doctor, optometrist or pharmacist has prescribed.

Do not use Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment to treat any other complaints unless your doctor or optometrist tells you to.

Do not increase the dose, without first checking with your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

What to be careful of

Be careful if you are elderly, unwell or taking other medicines.

Some people may experience side effects such as distorted or blurred vision, which may increase the risk of a fall.

SIDE EFFECTS

Tell your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment.

This medicine 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 attention if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

Tell your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist immediately if you notice any of the following:

- local eye irritation with itching or burning
- skin rashes and urticaria
- skin blisters or fever

Check with your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist as soon as possible if you have any problems while using Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment even if you do not think the problems are connected with the medicine or are not listed in this leaflet.

Tell your pharmacist, doctor or optometrist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

AFTER TAKING CHLORAMPHENICOL 1% w/w Eye Ointment

Storage

Keep your Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment in a cool dry place where the temperature stays at or below 25°C.

Discard 4 weeks after opening.

Do not store Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink, or on a window-sill.

Do not leave it in the car. Heat and damp can destroy some medicines.

Keep this medicine where children cannot reach them.

A locked cupboard at least one and a half meters above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor or optometrist tells you to stop using Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment that is left over. Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

What it looks like

Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment is presented in an aluminum tube with a plastic cap containing 5g ointment.

It is a yellowish-white, translucent greasy ointment, free of visible contamination in aluminum tubes.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

Chloramphenicol 1% w/w Eye Ointment contains 1.0% w/w chloramphenicol.

Inactive ingredients:

Paraffin liquid, Paraffin soft white.

Sponsor

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