

chloramphenicol

0.5% eye drops, 1% eye ointment

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Note:

This guideline provides advice of a general nature. This statewide guideline has been prepared to promote and facilitate standardisation and consistency of practice, using a multidisciplinary approach. The guideline is based on a review of published evidence and expert opinion.

Information in this statewide guideline is current at the time of publication.

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Health practitioners in the South Australian public health sector are expected to review specific details of each patient and professionally assess the applicability of the relevant guideline to that clinical situation.

If for good clinical reasons, a decision is made to depart from the guideline, the responsible clinician must document in the patient's medical record, the decision made, by whom, and detailed reasons for the departure from the guideline.

This statewide guideline does not address all the elements of clinical practice and assumes that the individual clinicians are responsible for discussing care with consumers in an environment that is culturally appropriate and which enables respectful confidential discussion. This includes:

- The use of interpreter services where necessary,
- Advising consumers of their choice and ensuring informed consent is obtained,
- Providing care within scope of practice, meeting all legislative requirements and maintaining standards of professional conduct, and
- Documenting all care in accordance with mandatory and local requirements

Dose and Indications

Bacterial Infections of the eye and lids due to susceptible organisms

Ocular Drops

Instil 1 drop into the affected eye, every 4 hours for the first 24 hours, then decreasing to 4 to 6 hourly for 5 to 7 days.

Ocular Ointment

Apply 1 cm four times a day for 5 to 7 days

Preparation and Administration

Ocular Drops

The eye can only hold a maximum of one drop.

There is no advantage of instilling several drops. If instilling more than one drop in an eye then separate drops by several minutes to avoid washing drops out of eye. Finger pressure applied to lacrimal sac following application of eye drops will reduce systemic absorption.

Ocular Ointment

Clean the eye of all secretions. Place the neonate on their back. Do not touch the patient with the tip of the tube. Pull lower lid down and squeeze out a line of ointment. By rotating the tube when you reach the outer eye, you will help detach the ointment from the tube



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Adverse Effects

Infrequent

Unpleasant taste

Rare

Allergy (e.g. local reactions, angioedema, anaphylaxis), dermatitis (often moderately severe)

Practice Points

- > Review therapy if symptoms do not improve within 48 hours of starting chloramphenicol
- > Acute chlamydial trachomatis conjunctivitis resembles acute bacterial/viral conjunctivitis. Note that chlamydial trachomatis conjunctivitis is treated systemically with azithromycin (see azithromycin guideline for detail).
- > If ointment is used it should be applied to both eyes to prevent a small risk of amblyopia.
- > Chloramphenicol ointment should be used for a maximum of a week, if treatment is required beyond this period change to chloramphenicol eye drops.

Document Ownership & History

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