



CHLOROMYCETIN

Chloramphenicol

DRUG USES

Chloromycetin was historically used to treat a wide range of bacterial infections. While its use has declined due to safety concerns and the emergence of newer antibiotics, it still has specific medical uses in certain situations. Some of the historical and current uses of chloromycetin include:

Typhoid Fever: Chloromycetin was once a primary treatment for typhoid fever, a bacterial infection caused by *Salmonella typhi*. However, due to the risk of serious side effects, it is now reserved for cases where other antibiotics are not effective.

Bacterial Meningitis: Chloromycetin has been used to treat bacterial meningitis, an infection of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord. Its use in this context has also decreased due to safety concerns and the availability of alternative antibiotics.

Rickettsial Infections: Chloromycetin has been used to treat certain rickettsial infections, such as Rocky Mountain spotted fever and typhus.

Eye Infections: Topical forms of chloromycetin (eye drops or ointments) have been used to treat bacterial eye infections, including conjunctivitis (pink eye) and other eye conditions caused by susceptible bacteria.

Bacterial Respiratory Infections: In the past, chloromycetin was used to treat respiratory tract infections caused by susceptible bacteria. However, it is rarely used for this purpose today.

Anaerobic Infections: In some cases, chloromycetin has been used to treat anaerobic bacterial infections, such as certain types of intra-abdominal infections.

It's important to note that the use of chloromycetin has diminished over time due to concerns about serious side effects, including bone marrow suppression and the risk of "gray baby syndrome" in newborns. Additionally, antibiotic resistance has further limited its effectiveness against certain bacteria. Healthcare professionals now tend to prescribe other antibiotics that have a better safety profile and are more effective against specific bacterial strains.