

Dr. William P. Cregar, addressing the San Diego Academy of General Practice, said that the drug "is the leading cause of" the often fatal aplastic anemia and that physicians "are using it far too much."

One of our witnesses today, Dr. William Dameshek, has been quoted in a widely read book on drugs that:

Promiscuous use of the drug should be avoided and use restricted to impelling circumstances; i.e., for conditions in which no other antibiotic is currently effective.

The American Medical Association Registry on Blood Dyscrasias, which provides reliable data on the subject, reported in July 1967 that in 96 percent of the 408 cases of aplastic anemia brought to its attention, it was strongly suspected that chloramphenicol was the causative agent—and its possible link in the remaining 4 percent was not ruled out.

The report says the drug is believed to be the cause of death in 50 percent of these 408 cases.

A physician, Dr. Albe M. Watkins, whose son died from aplastic anemia caused by chloramphenicol, stated:

I do not know of one single victim who would not be alive today had he only been permitted to get well by himself, by nature, without the use of this antibiotic.

In a case in March 1967, a Federal district court awarded the heirs of a California woman \$180,000 in damages because she was disfigured after taking the drug. A dentist had prescribed the drug for an infection which followed extraction of several teeth.

The California woman claimed Chloromycetin produced aplastic anemia and so disfigured her that friends could not recognize her. She said she had to shave daily, grew a "buffalo hump," and developed severe acne. She later died of complications of the disease.

On February 20, 1967, a two-page advertisement appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association which described the use of Chloromycetin to the doctor. In 1,300 words of warning and in a large, black-bordered box, the ad warned the physician that—

Serious and even fatal blood dyscrasias (aplastic anemia, hypoplastic anemia * * *) are known to occur * * * chloramphenicol should be used only for serious infections caused by organisms which are susceptible to its anti-bacterial effects.

And it went on to warn against use for minor infections.

I asked the quality control director of the Parke, Davis Co. if he agreed that the warning was necessary and appropriate.

He concurred that the warning was important and had to be an integral part of the ad; that the drug had dangerous side effects; that deaths had occurred which were directly attributable to the use of the drug.

Then I showed him an advertisement for Chloromycetin run by Parke, Davis in the British Medical Journal on February 11, 1967—9 days prior to the American ad.

Not a single word of warning appeared in the British ad. No mention was made of the drug's potentially fatal side effects to at least alert the British physician.

I asked the drug company representative why there was no warning.