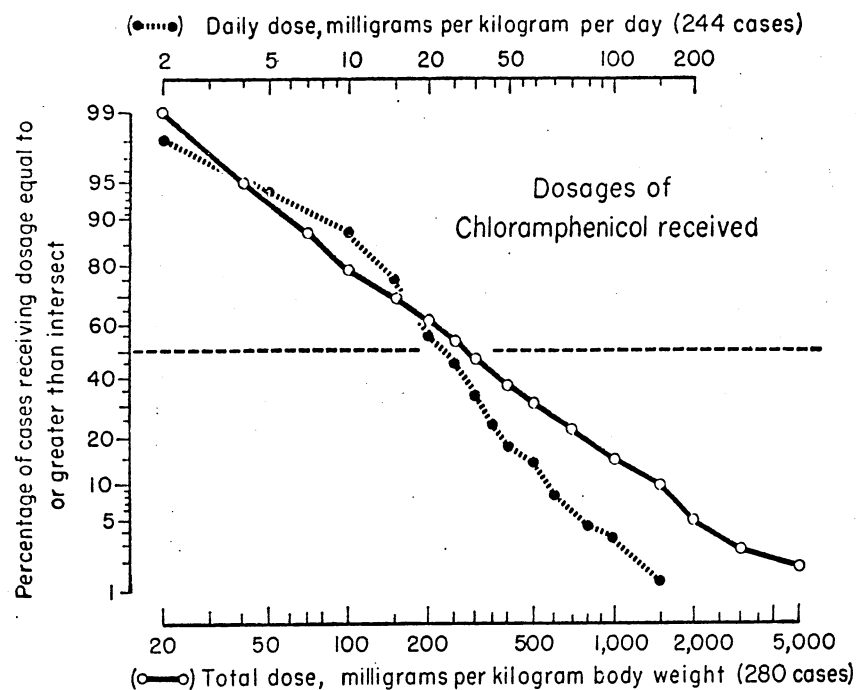




3. Daily dose of chloramphenicol in milligrams per kilogram per day and total dose in milligrams per kilogram. Distribution of values for each curve is indicated cumulatively on log-normal coordinates.

The number of days of therapy is similarly plotted as one of the curves in Fig 4. There is a concavity to the cumulative plot line. Although various interpretations are possible, a tendency of physicians to use either short courses or prolonged courses of therapy depending on the nature of the infection seems to be the most reasonable explanation for this nonlinearity. In 10% of cases, development of a blood dyscrasia was related to four days or less of therapy with chloramphenicol; in 50% it was related to 13 days or less; and in 10% to 150 days or more. In a few instances the drug was administered on only one occasion. Median duration of therapy by age group was: 11 days for patients 0 to 9 years, 13 days for those 10 to 39 years, and 15 days for those 40 years and over.

Time from first to last dose is similarly shown in Fig 4. This time amounted to four days or less in 10% of cases, 38 days or less in 50%, and 200 days or more in 10%. The main difference between these two curves, seen at their middle, is due to instances in which the drug was taken intermittently. Of the 329 patients on whom such information was available, 39% received the drug intermittently.

The small crossover of these two curves at their extremes reflects the fact that slightly different subsamples were suitable for each and that each curve is only an estimate rather than a precise indication of the curves which would be obtained from a much large population of similar cases.

The total dose of chloramphenicol received by various patients is plotted cumulatively in Fig. 3. The cumulative plot closely approaches a straight line using these coordinates. In 10% of cases the total dose amounted to 60 mg/kg or less, in 50% to 280 mg/kg or less, and in 10% to 1,300 mg/kg or more. One would expect the 50% intercept to agree fairly well with the product of 50% intercepts for average daily dose and number of days of therapy, and indeed the figure of 299 mg/kg obtained in this fashion is not far from the value of the other curve of Fig. 3, 280 mg/kg. There appears to be essentially no difference in total doses in milligrams per kilogram as related to age.