

This is the first instance of blood dyscrasias after short-term administration made reference to in the warning.

Bearing in mind the possibility that such reactions may occur, chloramphenicol should be used only for serious infections caused by organisms which are susceptible to its antibacterial effects. Chloramphenicol should not be used when other less potentially dangerous agents will be effective or in treatment of trivial infections.

And I call your attention to colds

"such as colds, influenza, viral infections of the throat, or as a prophylactic agent."

Precautions: It is essential that adequate blood studies be made during treatment with the drug. While blood studies may detect early peripheral blood changes, such as leukopenia or granulocytopenia, before they become irreversible, such studies cannot be relied upon to detect bone marrow depression prior to development of aplastic anemia.

Senator NELSON. The warning says Chloromycetin should not be used for "viral infections of the throat." What about other viral upper respiratory tract infections?

Dr. WESTON. I don't believe that it has ever been indicated in any viral upper respiratory infection.

Senator NELSON. Why would this warning specify viral infections of the throat and neglect to mention all viral upper respiratory infections?

Dr. WESTON. Because it was used quite widely almost from its inception in preventing secondary infection which is a common complication of any viral infections in the upper respiratory system. In other words, the common cold, as you are probably aware, starts out probably as a virus infection. The virus attenuates the mucosa of the respiratory tree, produces an excess secretion. This, in turn, opens it up to infections by bacteria which take over in the virulent stage when your discharge changes from water into a yellowish type of discharge. Then the antibiotic could be used to prevent the secondary stage of this infection, the bacterial stage.

Senator NELSON. Has it been used prophylactically for rheumatic fever, for example?

Dr. WESTON. Oh, I think it has; yes, sir.

Not with recognition by any organized program of any kind, to my knowledge.

Senator NELSON. That is why I was curious not as to why they simply said viral infections of the throat rather than all upper respiratory infections.

Mr. GORDON. Dr. Weston, coming back to the warnings about when it shouldn't be used, Dr. Best, who testified here on Tuesday, said that this caution is not observed by all members of the medical profession.

Do you have any idea why this is so?

Dr. WESTON. I cover that later on in my statement, but I can elaborate on it right here. There are probably—if I say it now it would just be recanting what I will say later on.

Mr. GORDON. All right, we will come to it.

Dr. WESTON. Since 1962, these warnings had been on the Chloromycetin packages, in the circulars placed in both the oral and parenteral use Chloromycetin packages and in the Chloromycetin promotional literature put forth by Parke, Davis & Co. This warning has