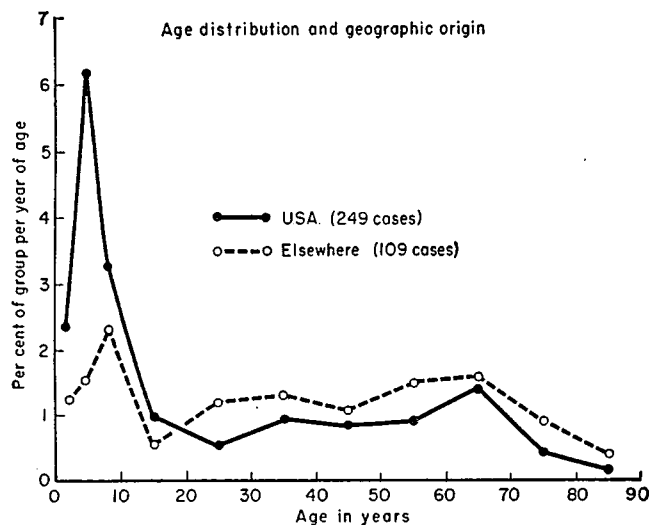




1. Age distribution of cases of chloramphenicol-associated blood dyscrasia as related to geographic origin.

The smaller 3- to 7-year age peak in the non-U.S. cases might represent either different patterns by which this drug is prescribed for various age groups, different biases in the reporting of cases, or different hereditary patterns of age susceptibility to this complication as related to ethnic origin. The last of these possibilities seems unlikely, for 84% of the non-U.S. cases are from Europe or European-colonized countries, and a similar background is claimed for most white patients from the United States. In addition, 14% of US patients are nonwhite whereas only 9% of foreign cases are nonwhite, and nonwhites had a lower peak of occurrence at ages 3 to 7 than did whites.

The Table presents data on some of the more common indications for use of the drug in relation to age and sex. Upper respiratory tract or ear infection were the indications in 29 (almost 40%) of 77 patients, in the under 10-year age group but in only 7 (about 10%) of 68 patients in the older age groups; lower respiratory tract infections and urogenital infections, on the other hand, each accounted for almost a third of indications in the elderly, but only about a tenth of childhood indications. A comparison of US with other reports in this regard reveals similar patterns of indications for most age groups except that there appears to be a slightly lower percentage of childhood cases corresponding to each of the three specific listed indications in the non-U.S. group.

AGE, SEX, AND REASON FOR RECEIVING CHLORAMPHENICOL

Indication for chloramphenicol	Age group					
	0-9 years		20-39 years		60-plus years	
	Number of patients	Number of females	Number of patients	Number of females	Number of patients	Number of females
Upper respiratory tract or ear infections.....	29	19	4	2	7	4
Lower respiratory tract infections.....	7	6	6	5	21	7
Urogenital infections.....	10	10	11	9	21	5
Other indications.....	31	20	32	22	19	9
Total.....	77	55	53	38	68	25

Race and Ethnic Origin.—Of the 346 patients whose race is known, 28 (8%) were Negro, 10 (3%) were Oriental, 3 were American Indian, and 2 were East