

An ad hoc Conference was held on 6 August and reviewed all available data presented by the Food and Drug Administration and by Parke, Davis and Company.

The consensus of the Conference was as follows :

1. Certain cases of serious blood dyscrasias (aplastic anemia, thrombocytopenic purpura, granulocytopenia, and pancytopenia) have been associated with the administration of chloramphenicol.

2. Although this complication has thus far been uncommon, it is sufficiently important to warrant a warning on the label of packages of the drug and in advertisements of the drug and the recommendation that chloramphenicol not be used indiscriminately or for minor infections.

3. When prolonged or intermittent administration is required, adequate blood studies should be carried out.

4. In view of the paucity of information at the present time the Conference hopes that further study of serious reactions to chloramphenicol and other drugs will be promoted. The records of the Veterans Administration and military forces could be of great value in providing some of the desired information.

Senator NELSON. This was 1952?

Dr. GODDARD. That was 1952.

Senator NELSON. Has any formalized procedure been instituted to accumulate the statistics and records from the Veterans' Administration and the military forces respecting this drug?

Dr. GODDARD. There is no formal system; no, sir.

Senator NELSON. Well, here is a recommendation made in 1952.

Dr. GODDARD. We do know that the Veterans' Administration and the military forces have procedures within their own organizations controlling the use of chloramphenicol. But in terms of a formal system of transfer of information, no.

Mr. GOODRICH. The recording system that we have originated with this type suggestion for all drugs, and the contracting and reporting system was set up on that basis, utilizing primarily the veterans and other military hospitals as reporting sources.

Dr. LEY. And civilian hospitals as well.

Mr. GOODRICH. In the beginning they were essentially these two resource groups.

Senator NELSON. What kind of statistics do we now have from the military and from the Veterans' Administration on the use of this drug and on its side effects?

Dr. LEY. This effort has been implemented with considerable delay. Within the past year, we have pressed strongly for participation of the teaching hospitals in both the veterans hospital system and the military system in our hospital reporting program.

We are at this point in time in a position in which the majority of these teaching hospitals are participating. This is a very slow procedure to stimulate when we cannot actually force participation of this sort.

Senator NELSON. Are you talking about military teaching hospitals?

Dr. LEY. There are certain military hospitals which are accredited for teaching purposes, and Veterans' Administration hospitals similarly.

Senator NELSON. How many are there in the United States?

Dr. LEY. Let me provide this information for the record, if I may. We can give you a complete statement on this reporting system.

(The subsequent supplemental information follows:)