

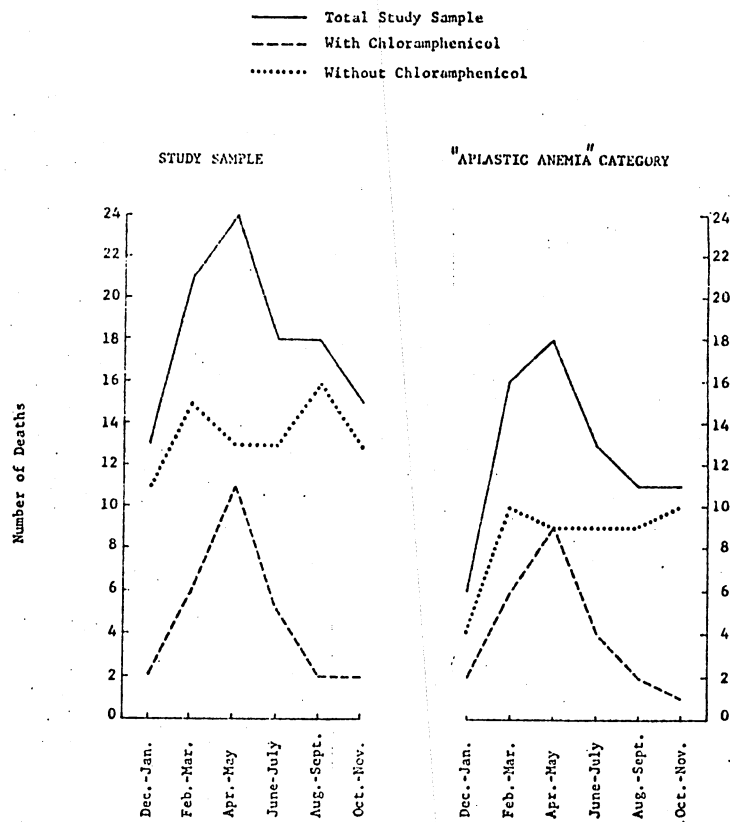


FIG. 5. Study sample and 'aplastic anemia' category with and without chloramphenicol by month of onset.

affected all ages but was more pronounced in the young. There was no such concentration by month of onset at any particular time of year among persons not exposed to chloramphenicol.

The above three findings suggest that cases of aplastic anemia associated with chloramphenicol constitute a rather distinct entity.

Characteristics of use of chloramphenicol

Before onset of blood dyscrasia.—The salient features of chloramphenicol usage among the group studied can be summarized as follows: The drug had been used for a variety of conditions ranging from acne to life-threatening staphylococcal pneumonia. It was most commonly employed for non-hospitalized patients, without prior bacteriological studies or drug sensitivity tests, and without blood studies. The only two persons reported to have had bacteriological identification of the causative organisms (*Staphylococcus*) also had sensitivity tests indicating sensitivity to other antimicrobial drugs as well as to chloramphenicol. As far as could be ascertained from hospital records only two of the 30 persons who received chloramphenicol had blood counts during treatment with the drug.

Of the 30 persons who received chloramphenicol during the six months before the onset of the blood dyscrasia, 12 received two or more courses. Another 12 received only one course of 10 days or less. The remaining six received chloramphenicol as follows: one continuously for 5–6 months, one intermittently for 6 months, one intermittently for 7–9 months, one intermittently for 8 months, one a "long course" and one an unknown amount of unknown duration.