

The other thing that I would point out is the sharp decline in the last several years, a progressive decline from 157,000 capsules in 1963 down to last year with some 32,000 capsules, which represents about 8,000 grams.

I would call your attention to the fact that the 8,000 grams in capsules is roughly equivalent to the 8,000 grams used in the parenteral form. These two are approximately equal at this time.

I would further point out that our hospital is one that is set up and designed expressly for the care of the desperately ill individual, and it is our responsibility to care for all patients in Los Angeles County that are deemed hazardous in terms of infectious problems for other hospitals in that area. We have the Communicable Disease Service.

Senator NELSON. What percentage of chloramphenicol is administered in your hospital by capsules vis-a-vis injectables, do you know?

Dr. WEHRLE. Parenteral use is equivalent to the capsule use in terms of numbers of grams of drugs dispensed. This would indicate to me that relatively little of this is used for the treatment of outpatients.

Senator NELSON. Very little of what?

Dr. WEHRLE. Very little of the drug is going into patients who are ambulatory and treated in our outpatient program.

The reason for this is that this drug is well absorbed. It is well tolerated by the gastrointestinal route and consequently after the initial serious, desperate illness is over, the physician is likely to change to the oral use of the drug while the patient is still in the hospital simply to save the discomfort of injection and the additional nursing time necessary for injection.

Senator NELSON. This chart will be printed in the record at this point.

(The chart follows:)

CHLORAMPHENICOL PURCHASES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY—UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MEDICAL CENTER—UTILIZATION OF CHLORAMPHENICOL PRODUCTS

Year	Chloramphenicol 250 mg. capsules	Chloramphenicol solution 0.5 g./2 cc.	Chloramphenicol palmitate 125 mg./4 cc.	Chloramphenicol 1.0 g. I.M.	Chloramphenicol sodium succinate 1 gm./10 cc.
1952.....	25,104	348	598	(1)	(1)
1953.....	35,792	8,320	1,800	(1)	(1)
1954.....	27,600	15,548	2,278	106	(1)
1955.....	64,800	5,490	4,026	4,800	(1)
1956.....	118,700	10,250	4,896	1,500	(1)
1957.....	182,400	18,580	6,048	16,600	(1)
1958.....	271,800	32,340	7,272	24,882	(1)
1959.....	330,300	16,520	8,352	26,000	200,220
1960.....	395,200	(1)	8,768	23,200	355,000
1961.....	79,000	(1)	1,800	3,000	127,000
1962.....	104,200	(1)	2,007	4,250	25,802
1963.....	157,900	(1)	1,598	7,000	36,494
1964.....	147,600	(1)	2,016	4,000	42,824
1965.....	131,700	(1)	1,008	4,000	46,000
1966.....	119,600	20	1,440	5,000	35,000
1967.....	93,600	(1)	480	4,500	23,188
1968.....	32,400	(1)	48	1,000	8,000

¹ Data not available.

Senator NELSON. Please go ahead, Doctor.

Dr. WEHRLE. The continued widespread usage of chloramphenicol, often for what are apparently minor illnesses, or illness for which another drug is of at least equal or greater effectiveness, is difficult to understand in view of the mounting evidence of serious toxicity. While the specific toxicity of this drug to newborn infants can be controlled