

COMMENTS: All forms of plague have been shown to respond to chloramphenicol when it is given in large doses early in the disease. There is no clear evidence that it is superior to tetracycline or streptomycin.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. McCrumb, F.R., Jr., S. Mercier, J. Robic, M. Bouillat, J.E. Smadel, T.E. Woodward, and K. Goodner. Chloramphenicol and terramycin in the treatment of pneumonic plague. Amer. J. Med. 14:284-293, 1953.

XVII. Ornithosis.

EVALUATION: Possibly effective.

COMMENTS: In embryonated eggs and experimental animal infections, chloramphenicol is less effective than the tetracyclines. Results of therapy of human infections have been variable and relapses have been frequent. The role of the drug in this disease is not well established.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Woodward, T.E., and C.L. Wisseman, Jr. Chloromycetin, pp. 70-71. Antibiotics Monographs No. 8. New York: Medical Encyclopidia, Inc., 1958.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The "warning" section appears justified in view of the seriousness of aplastic anemia.

Tissue distribution appears to be favorable. The distribution into the cerebrospinal fluid is good as pointed out in the insert, and is reasonably good into brain tissue, which is important when cerebritis accompanies meningitis. The distribution into bile is not as high as that of the tetracyclines and some of the penicillins. The very small amount in the feces is of interest as is the fact that the fecal content is higher when the palmitate has been given.

The penetration into the eye is a plus factor for this drug. Trans-placental transfer was shown by chemical methods which may not measure the active drug.

Emphasis should be put on the recommended dose, because a smaller dose is often given, particularly postoperatively. The fate of the drug when the metabolic mechanisms are disturbed should remain as stated. As to blood dyscrasias, it should be mentioned that frequent blood counts do not necessarily assure that aplastic anemia can be prevented. In fact, it may occur after the drug has been stopped.