

EVALUATION: Effective, but . . . .

COMMENTS: That chloramphenicol is effective in the diseases listed is well established, except in rickettsial pox, a condition so infrequently seen that few data are available. However, if the warning is to be taken seriously--"chloramphenicol should not be used when other less potentially dangerous agents will be effective"---the tetracyclines, which have been shown to be as effective as chloramphenicol, should be considered the choice and chloramphenicol used only if toxicity to these or failure to respond has occurred. The duration of therapy recommended appears adequate.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Knight, V., W. McDermott, and F. Ruiz-Sanchez. Aureomycin and chloramphenicol: use in typhus, typhoid and brucellosis. J. Clin. Invest. 28:1052-1053, 1949. (abstr.)
2. Knight, V., F. Ruiz-Sanchez, and W. McDermott. Chloramphenicol in the treatment of the acute manifestations of brucellosis. Amer. J. Med. Sci. 219:627-638, 1950.
3. Ley, H.L., Jr., T.E. Woodward, and J.E. Smadel. Chloramphenicol (chloromycetin) in the treatment of murine typhus. J.A.M.A. 143:217-219, 1950.
4. Murray, E.S., G. Baehr, G. Schwartzman, T.A. Manderbaum, N. Rosenthal, J.C. Doane, L.B. Weiss, S. Cohen, and J.C. Snyder. Brill's Disease; clinical and laboratory diagnosis. J.A.M.A. 142:1059-1066, 1950.
5. Pincoffs, M.C., E.G. Guy, L.M. Lister, T.E. Woodward, and J.E. Smadel. The treatment of Rocky Mountain spotted fever with chloromycetin. Ann. Intern. Med. 29:656-663, 1948.
6. Smadel, J.E., T.E. Woodward, H.L. Ley, Jr., and R. Leuthwaite. Chloramphenicol (chloromycetin) in the treatment of tsutsugamushi disease (scrub typhus). J. Clin. Invest. 28:1196-1215, 1949.

III. Typhoid fever.

EVALUATION: Effective, but . . . .

COMMENTS: Chloramphenicol has often been listed as the drug of choice in typhoid fever. It is not clear that ampicillin has changed this claim, but if they were of equal activity, the claim of "drug of choice" would have to be revised because of the toxicity warning. There is no mention of the carrier problem and relapses of positive stool cultures.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Knight, V., W. McDermott, and F. Ruiz-Sanchez. Aureomycin and chloramphenicol: use in typhus, typhoid and brucellosis. J. Clin. Invest. 28:1052-1053, 1949. (abstr.)
2. Smadel, J.E., H.L. Ley, Jr., and F.H. Diercks. Treatment of typhoid fever. I. Combined therapy with cortisone and chloramphenicol. Ann. Intern. Med. 34:1-9, 1951.