



# Peak Veterinary Specialists

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## CHLORAMPHENICOL

Available in: 250mg, 500mg, 1g capsules/tablets  
30mg/ml oral suspension  
Eye and ear formulations

### HOW THIS MEDICATION WORKS

Chloramphenicol inhibits the intracellular protein manufacturing system of bacteria yet does not affect mammalian, reptilian, or avian intracellular proteins. Highly susceptible bacteria are killed while others are merely rendered unable to divide/multiply. Chloramphenicol has an especially broad spectrum of activity against numerous aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, mycoplasma, and chlamydial organisms.

### USES FOR THIS MEDICATION

Chloramphenicol may be given orally or topically, usually three times daily. Peak activity occurs approximately 30 minutes after an oral dose except in the nervous system where several hours are required for penetration of the "blood/brain barrier." This medication is an especially good choice for infections such as:

- Necrotic (dead) tissue or walled-off area with inner infection (such as pneumonia)
- Central nervous system involvement
- Eye involvement
- Prostate gland involvement
- Intracellular parasites (such as Chlamydia, mycoplasma, rickettsia)

### SIDE EFFECTS

Nausea, diarrhea, and appetite loss can occur with any antibiotic but are uncommon (and usually minor) side effects of this medication. However, if they occur, another medication can be selected. Chloramphenicol can occasionally interfere with the function of the bone marrow.

### INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER DRUGS

The following drugs may last longer than expected if used concurrently with chloramphenicol:

- **Phenobarbital** (used for seizures) or any anticonvulsant
- **Cyclophosphamide** (used in chemotherapy)

The use of phenobarbital may also reduce the effectiveness of chloramphenicol.

## CONCERNS & CAUTIONS

Three times a day dosing is often inconvenient for pet owners and doses are missed. If you know that three times daily administration is not likely to be performed reliably, let your veterinarian know this.

- Chloramphenicol powder tastes terrible! Do not crush!
- Chloramphenicol should not be used in patients with abnormal bone marrow, non-regenerative anemia, or circulating abnormal blood cells.
- Chloramphenicol is removed from the body via the liver's detoxification mechanisms. If a patient is in liver failure, another antibiotic should be chosen
- Chloramphenicol should not be used in breeding animals, pregnant females or in newborns.
- Vaccinations should not be given during a course of Chloramphenicol.

**\*\*HUMANS MAY DEVELOP FATAL APLASTIC ANEMIA IF EXPOSED ORALLY TO CHLORAMPHENICOL. (RISK IS APPROXIMATELY ONE PERSON IN 25,000). THIS CONDITION IS IRREVERSIBLE AND IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON DOSAGES. THEREFORE, BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN HANDLING THIS MEDICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT ONE WEAR GLOVES AND WASH HANDS IMMEDIATELY AFTER HANDLING THIS MEDICATION.\*\***

**If you have any questions regarding this information please contact Peak  
Veterinary Specialists!**