CHLORAMPHENICOL EYE DROPS and OINTMENT

DESCRIPTION  Topical antibiotic

USE  Infective Conjunctivitis

DOSE  
DROPS  2 drops to each eye 4hourly.
OINTMENT  1 squeeze of eye ointment along inside of lower eyelid 6hourly

PRESENTATION  
5mg/ml chloramphenicol eye drops
10mg/g chloramphenicol in oculatum base cream

ADMINISTRATION  
Topical to each eye. Always treat both eyes unless expressly told not to.
Wipe away any discharge starting at the inner corner of the eye. DROPS  Place one drop of medication at the inner angle of the open eye.
OINTMENT  Place one squeeze of eye ointment along inside of lower eyelid
Make sure the drops and ointment containers do not themselves become infected by letting them touch the eye

STORAGE  Store below 25°C.
Single patient use only, label medications with patients ID labels.
KEEP MEDICATION WITH PATIENT AT THE BEDSIDE.

SIDE EFFECTS  Chemical conjunctivitis
Possible small risk of aplastic anaemia (unsubstantiated)

MONITORING  
Post-neonatal conjunctivitis is often viral rather than bacterial and even when it is bacterial there is little good evidence that it clears more rapidly as a result of treatment with antibiotic eye drops.
A chronic watery/sticky discharge is usually due to blockage of the naso-lacrimal duct which is common in the first months after birth and usually resolves spontaneously without treatment. Massaging the tear duct from the inner canthus to the nose may help to clear any discharge blocking the flow of tears and to open up the tear duct.

REFERENCES  