

CHLORAMPHENICOL

Trade Name	Chlorsig® Chlorofast®
Class	Ophthalmic antibiotic
Mechanism of Action	Reversibly binds 50S ribosomal subunits thus inhibiting protein synthesis in susceptible organisms.
Indications	Acute bacterial conjunctivitis
Contraindications	Hypersensitivity to chloramphenicol or previous Grey–Baby syndrome. Use with caution in patients with G-6PD deficiency or anaemia
Supplied As	0.5% Solution (10mL bottle) 1% Ointment (4g tube)
Dilution	N/A
Dosage	1 – 2 drops solution 1cm of ointment
Interval	6 hourly
Administration	Topical instillation into the eye. It may be most practical to do this when baby wakes for feeding. Drops can be more effective initially. Ointment may be more practical and easier for parents. Continue treatment for 7 days – recurrence common if short courses used.
Compatible With	If using more than one eye preparation allow at least 3 minutes between them to prevent fluid overload within the eye
Incompatible With	N/A
Monitoring	CBC, liver and renal function in at risk patients
Stability	Discard 4 weeks after opening
Storage	Eye drops: refrigerate, store between 2 – 8 °C Ointment: store at room temperature

Adverse Reactions	<p>Transient stinging when initially applied.</p> <p>Other adverse reactions are rare with topical preparations due to low systemic absorption but may include.....</p> <p>Gray-Baby syndrome, nightmares, headache, rash, diarrhoea, vomiting, anaemia, bone marrow hypoplasia, pancytopenia, hepatitis, peripheral neuropathy, optic neuritis, anaphylaxis</p>
Metabolism	<p>Poor topical absorption.</p> <p>Extensive hepatic glucuronidation to inactive metabolites</p>
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Micromedex 2. New Ethicals Catalogue May – November 2001. 3. Neonatal Formulary 3, BMJ Publishing Group UK 2000; pp78 & 103-4. 4. Neofax 2000, Acorn Publishing USA ; p23 5. Medicines for Children, RCPCH 1999 ; pp 100-101 & G98 6. nzf.org.nz
Updated By	<p>Barbara Robertshawe May 2005 A Lynn, B Robertshawe June 2012 (re-order profile) A Lynn, M Wallenstein, B Robertshawe November 2020.</p>