Drug of choice: Topical 0.02% chlorhexidine and polyhexamethylene biguanide (PHMB, 0.02%), either alone or in combination, have been used successfully in a large number of patients. Treatment with either chlorhexidine or PHMB is often combined with propamidine isethionate (Brolene) or hexamidine (Desmodine). None of these drugs is commercially available or approved for use in the US, but they can be obtained from compounding pharmacies. Leiter’s Park Avenue Pharmacy, San Jose, CA (800-292-6773; www.leiterrx.com) is a compounding pharmacy that specializes in ophthalmic drugs. Propamidine is available over the counter in the UK and Australia. Hexamidine is available in France. The combination of chlorhexidine, natamycin (pimaricin) and debridement also has been successful.1 Debridement is most useful during the stage of corneal epithelial infection. Most cysts are resistant to neomycin; its use is no longer recommended. Azole antifungal drugs (ketoconazole, itraconazole) have been used as oral or topical adjuncts.2 Use of corticosteroids is controversial.3


Information provided by The Medical Letter. For a copy of the entire Drugs for Parasitic Infections article, go to: www.medicalletter.org/parasitic_cdc