

Co-Trimoxazole

Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is a combination of two antibiotics used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections (e.g., middle ear, urine, respiratory and intestinal infections). It is also used to prevent and treat a certain type of pneumonia (pneumocystis-type).

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth with a full glass of water (8 ounces or 240 milliliters).

If stomach upset occurs, take with food or milk. Drink plenty of fluids while taking this medication to prevent unlikely kidney stones from forming.

Take this drug at evenly spaced intervals.

Continue to take this medication until the full-prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping it too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking sulfamethoxazole with trimethoprim, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to sulfa medications or trimethoprim; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: a certain blood disorder (anemia due to folate vitamin deficiency), a certain metabolic disorder (porphyria), severe kidney disease, severe liver disease.

This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, tanning booths or sunlamps. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors.

Patients with AIDS may be more sensitive to the side effects of the drug, especially skin reactions, fever, and blood disorders.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. This medication should not be used near the expected delivery date because of possible harm to the unborn baby.

This drug passes into breast milk. While there have been no reports of harm to healthy infants, this drug may have undesirable effects on infants who are ill or premature or have certain disorders (jaundice, high blood levels of bilirubin, G6PD deficiency).

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Stop taking sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim and seek emergency medical attention if you experience any of the following serious side effects.

- an allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of your throat; swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; or hives);
- unusual bleeding or bruising; or
- yellow skin or eyes.

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take your medication and talk to your doctor if you experience

- headache, fatigue, or dizziness;
- nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite, or diarrhea;
- weakness; or
- increased sensitivity to the sun.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store the product at room temperature between 15-25 degrees C away from light and moisture.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

What other information should I know?

This medication should not be used in children less than 2 months of age due to the risk of serious side effects.

Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim is in the FDA pregnancy category C. This means that it is not known whether sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim will harm an unborn baby. This medication affects folic acid in your body, which is necessary for the normal development of a baby. Do not take sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant.

