COTRIMOXAZOLE ®



How do this medication work?

Cotrimoxazole is an antibiotic used in the prevention and treatment of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP). This parasite can infect people whose immune system in weakened as is the case with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection.

Even if they are not sick, some people who have HIV take cotrimoxazole to avoid getting PCP.

Cotrimoxazole is used with antiretroviral medications. Cotrimoxazole and antiretroviral medications do not eliminate HIV. You always risk transmitting the virus by sexual or blood contact. You must therefore continue to take the necessary precautions (use condoms, do not share syringes).



How do I take this medication?

Cotrimoxazole		
< single-strength tablet		
or DS tablet		
or mL (40- to 200-mg/5-mL)		
< once daily		
or once every 2 days		
or once per week		
Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday		
Friday Saturday Sunday		

Take with food.

Drink a lot of water (8 to 10 glasses a day).

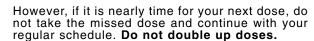
It is important not to forget to take doses of your medication, even if you do not feel ill.

Unless you have serious **side effects** (see section on side effects), never stop your treatment without first speaking to your doctor.



What if I forget taking a dose?

Take the dose you missed as soon as possible and continue with your regular schedule.





Can I take cotrimoxazole with other medications?

The risk of side effects is increased if cotrimoxazole is mixed with other medications.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new prescription or non-prescription medication, natural product or recreational drug.



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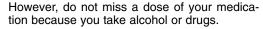
What are the side effects of this medication?

What are the side effects of this medication:		
Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. Continue the medication	Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain Sensitivity to the sun	
Contact your doctor Continue the medication	 Rash only Anemia: fatigue, shortness of breath, palpitations, pale skin Thrombocytopenia: bruising, inexplicable bleeding, red marks on the skin 	
See your doctor IMMEDIATELY	-Rash WITH: - Swelling, blisters - Difficulty breathing - Fever	

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of any troublesome side effects. They can help you to manage them.

Can I drink alcohol or take drugs if I'm on cotrimoxazole?

Avoid regular alcohol consumption which may damage your liver, especially if you are a hepatitis carrier. Reasonable consumption should not harm your health.





What if I'm pregnant or breast-feeding?

Cotrimoxazole must not be prescribed to women during the last trimester of pregnancy. Breast-feeding is not recommended in women who are HIV-positive.



Storage

Avoid storage in bathrooms.

Keep cotrimoxazole in a dry place at room temperature.

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.



General advice

Always keep your appointments with your doctor and care team, so that your health status can be closely monitored even if you have no symptoms.



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