

About your medication

**CO-TRIMOXAZOLE
(Sulfamethoxazole-
Trimethoprim)**

(Bactrim® 800mg/160mg tablets,
40mg/8mg per mL suspension,

Septtrin®, and Resprim®
400mg/80mg tablets,
800mg/160mg tablets,
40mg/8mg per mL suspension)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS CO-TRIMOXAZOLE?

Co-trimoxazole belongs to a class of drugs called sulfur or sulfonamides drugs. It contains two antibiotics, trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole, which work together in the treatment of infections caused by bacteria. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Co-trimoxazole works against many bacteria. It can be used to treat infections of the:

- ear, nose and throat
- lungs
- kidneys and urinary tract
- diarrhoea caused by bacteria
- skin.

It can be used as a preventative agent to reduce the risk of infection in some individual situations.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people.

It is normally given once or twice a day.

Co-trimoxazole is best given with food or after a meal. Give the dose at about the same time each day.

It is important to take the full course of treatment.

If you are using the mixture, measure the dose accurately with an oral syringe or measuring cup/spoon.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medication it can be given as soon as you remember. Do not give the missed dose if it is close to the next one, just give the next dose as normal. **Do not double up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep Co-trimoxazole locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using Co-trimoxazole with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for

- medicines used to thin the blood eg Warfarin
 - Aspirin or Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory drugs taken for arthritis or fever
 - high doses of Methotrexate
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- some drugs used to treat epilepsy eg Phenytoin, Phenobarbitone
- some tablets used to treat diabetes eg Metformin, Gliclazide.

This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Finish the full course of Co-trimoxazole even if the infection has cleared up and your child feels better.
- Do not give Co-trimoxazole to your child if they have had an allergic reaction to any sulfur containing drugs.
- Co-trimoxazole may make your child dizzy. Your child should avoid activities like riding a bike or climbing a tree until you know how they are affected.
- Your child may be more sensitive to sunlight and burn more easily while taking this medicine. Use a sunscreen and hat if outdoors and cover up with clothing. Remember the sun shining through windows can also cause burning.
- Do not give to children under 1 month old unless directed by the doctor
- Avoid use if your child has G6PD deficiency

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking Co-trimoxazole. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- stomach upset or cramps
- nausea or vomiting
- poor appetite
- dizziness
- diarrhoea

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- sore throat, fever or chills
- extreme weakness or tiredness
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- severe persistent headache
- discolouration of the urine
- severe watery diarrhoea even if it occurs several weeks after stopping the co-trimoxazole.

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.
