

About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed co-trimoxazole tablets for you.

What is this medicine used for?

This medication is a combination of two antibiotics (sulphamethoxazole and trimethoprim). It is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections.

It is also used for other conditions, including the management of skin conditions, as determined by your doctor.

How should I take this medicine?

Take this medicine with food to prevent stomach upset. Drink plenty of fluids while taking this medication to prevent unlikely kidney stones from forming, unless your doctor advises you otherwise.

Antibiotics work best when the amount of medicine in your body is kept at a constant level. Therefore, 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 the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you are directed by your doctor to take this medicine regularly, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose.

Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- headache
- diarrhoea
- loss of appetite
- nausea, vomiting
- vaginal itching or discharge
- white spots on lips or in mouth

Consult your doctor as soon as possible if any of these additional effects occur, as they may indicate more serious side effects:

- mental or mood changes
- muscle weakness
- new lump or growth in the neck (goiter)
- signs of low blood sugar (e.g., shaking, dizziness, blurred vision, unusual hunger)

This medication may rarely cause serious (possibly fatal) allergic reactions and other side effects such as a severe blistering skin rash (e.g., Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis), blood disorders (e.g., agranulocytosis, aplastic anemia), liver damage, or lung injury. A less severe form of allergic skin reaction known as a fixed drug eruption may occur in some individuals. This manifests as a skin rash/erosion/ulcer that occurs on the same part of the body every time you take the medication.

If you notice any of the following, seek immediate medical attention:

- dark urine
- easy bleeding/bruising
- itching
- joint pain/aches

- paleness
- persistent cough, fever, sore throat
- persistent nausea/vomiting
- skin rash/blisters
- swelling
- trouble breathing
- unusual fatigue
- yellowing eyes or skin

This medication may rarely cause a severe intestinal condition (pseudomembranous colitis) due to a resistant bacteria. This condition may occur while receiving therapy or even weeks after treatment has stopped. Do not use anti-diarrhea products or narcotic pain medications if you have the following symptoms because these products may make them worse. Tell your doctor immediately if you develop: persistent diarrhea, abdominal or stomach pain/cramping, or blood/mucus in your stool.

What precautions should I take?

- Inform your doctor if you have blood disorder (anemia due to folate vitamin deficiency), a certain metabolic disorder (porphyria), kidney or liver disease, asthma, decreased bone marrow function (bone marrow suppression), diabetes, a certain other metabolic disorder (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency or G6PD deficiency), certain intestinal conditions (e.g., malabsorption), any allergies.
- *For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.* 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. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

- 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). Therefore, breast-feeding is not recommended in infants with these conditions.
- Inform your doctor if you are taking other medication, especially, certain anti-diabetic medications (e.g., glipizide, tolbutamide), "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin), ciclosporin, digoxin, drugs which can increase potassium levels (e.g., ACE inhibitors such as captopril, lisinopril), phenytoin, live vaccines, methotrexate, procainamide, pyrimethamine, tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline), certain "water pills" (thiazide diuretics such as hydrochlorothiazide).
- This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors.
- This medication may decrease the effectiveness of combination-type birth control pills. This can result in pregnancy. You may need to use an additional form of reliable birth control while using this medication.
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children.
- Do not keep this medicine with other medications in the same container. Keep each medicine separately in labeled containers.

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

CO-TRIMOXAZOLE

When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist:
National Skin Centre
1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205.
Tel: 63508454

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