



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 is 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).



What if I forget taking a dose?

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

However, if it is nearly time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double up doses.**



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.



www.guidetherapeutiquevih.com

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.

However, do not miss a dose of your medication because you take alcohol or drugs.



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.



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 are the side effects of this medication?

 Normal reactions which will disappear or can be treated. Continue the medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain - Sensitivity to the sun
 Contact your doctor Continue the medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Rash only</u> - <u>Anemia</u>: fatigue, shortness of breath, palpitations, pale skin - <u>Thrombocytopenia</u>: bruising, inexplicable bleeding, red marks on the skin
 See your doctor IMMEDIATELY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Rash WITH</u>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swelling, blisters - Difficulty breathing - Fever

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

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.

