Co-trimoxazol 960 mg tablets

What co-trimoxazole is and what it is used for
Co-trimoxazole 960 mg tablets are made up of two different medicines called sulfamethoxazole (800 mg) and trimethoprim (160 mg). These medicines are sometimes given the combined name co-trimoxazole. Both belong to a group of medicines called antibiotics. They are used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Like all antibiotics, co-trimoxazole only works against some types of bacteria. This means that it is only suitable for treating some types of infections.

Co-trimoxazole can be used to treat or prevent:
- lung infections (pneumonia or PCP) caused by a bacteria called Pneumocystis jiroveci (previously known as Pneumocystis carini) infections caused by a bacteria called Toxoplasma (toxoplasmosis).
- Co-trimoxazole can be used to treat:
  - bladder or urinary tract infections (water infections)
  - lung infections such as bronchitis
  - ear infections such as otitis media
  - an infection called nocardiosis, it can affect the lungs, skin and brain.

Do not take co-trimoxazole if:
- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to sulfamethoxazole, trimethoprim or co-trimoxazole or any of the other ingredients of Co-trimoxazole (see section 6: Further information)
- you are allergic to sulphonamide medicines. Examples include sulphonylureas (such as gliclazide and glibenclamide) or thiazide diuretics (such as bendroflumethiazide – a water tablet)
- you have liver or kidney problems
- you have ever had a problem with your blood
- it is for your child and they are less than 6 weeks old or were premature.
- If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Co-trimoxazole.

Take special care with co-trimoxazole
Before you take co-trimoxazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if:
- you have severe allergies or asthma
- you have ever had an allergic skin reaction such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome or Lyell’s syndrome – where you get blisters on your skin, mouth, eyes and genitals
- you have been told that you have a rare blood problem called porphyria, which can affect your skin or nervous system
- you don’t have enough folic acid (a vitamin) in your body - which can make your skin pale and make you feel tired, weak and breathless. This is known as anaemia
- you have ever had jaundice which can cause yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes
- you have a problem with your metabolism called phenylketonuria and are not on a special diet to help your condition
- you are elderly
- you are underweight or malnourished
- If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Co-trimoxazole.

Takings co-trimoxazole with food and drink
You should take Co-trimoxazole with some food or drink. This will stop you feeling sick (nausea) or having diarrhoea. Although it is better to take it with food, you can still take it on an empty stomach.

Pregnancy and breast feeding
Talk to your doctor before taking this medicine if you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant, or breast-feeding.

How to take co-trimoxazole 160/800 mg Tablets
Always take co-trimoxazole exactly as your doctor has told you. The label on your pack will tell you how much to take and how often to take it. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Usual Dose
Adults and children over 12 years
The usual dose is two tablets in a morning and two tablets in an evening. Co-trimoxazole should be taken for at least five days.

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Co-trimoxazole.

Special Dose
The dose of co-trimoxazole and how long you need to take it depends on the infection you have and how bad it is. Your doctor may prescribe you a different dose or length of course of co-trimoxazole to:
- treat urinary tract (water) infections
- treat and prevent lung infections caused by the bacteria Pneumocystis jiroveci
- treat infections caused by the bacteria Toxoplasma (toxoplasmosis) or Nocardia (nocardiosis).

If you have kidney problems your doctor may:
- prescribe a lower dose of co-trimoxazole
- take blood to test whether the medicine is working properly.

If you take co-trimoxazole for a long time your doctor may
- take blood to test whether the medicine is working properly
- prescribe folic acid (a vitamin) for you to take at the same time as Co-trimoxazole.

If you take more co-trimoxazole than you should
If you take more co-trimoxazole than you should, talk to your doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Take the medicine pack with you.

If you have taken too much Co-trimoxazole you may
- feel or be sick
- feel dizzy or confused.
If you forget to take co-trimoxazole
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember it.
- Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten dose.

Possible side effects
Like all medicines co-trimoxazole can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. You may experience the following side effects with this medicine. Stop taking co-trimoxazole and tell your doctor immediately if you have an allergic reaction. Chances of an allergic reaction is very rare (fewer than 1 in 10,000 people are affected), signs of an allergic reaction include

Allergic reactions
- Difficulty in breathing
- Fainting
- Swelling of face
- Swelling of mouth, tongue or throat which may be red and painful and/or cause difficulty in swallowing
- Chest pain
- Red patches on the skin

Very Common (more than 1 in 10 people)
- High levels of potassium in your blood, which can cause abnormal heart beats (palpitations).

Common (less than 1 in 10 people)
- An infection called thrush or candidiasis which can affect your mouth or vagina. It is caused by a fungus
- Headache
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Diarrhoea
- Skin rashes.

Uncommon (less than 1 in 100)
- Being sick (vomiting).

Very Rare (less than 1 in 10,000 people)
- Fever (high temperature) or frequent infections
- Sudden wheeziness or difficulty breathing
- Mouth ulcers, cold sores and ulcers or soreness of your tongue
- Skin lumps or hives (raised, red or white, itchy patches of skin)
- Blisters on your skin or inside your mouth, nose, vagina or bottom
- Inflammation of the eye which causes pain and redness
- The appearance of a rash or sunburn when you have been outside (even on a cloudy day)
- Low levels of sodium in your blood
- Changes in blood tests
- Feeling weak, tired or listless, pale skin (anaemia)
- Heart problems
- Jaundice (the skin and the whites of your eyes turn yellow). This can occur at the same time as unexpected bleeding or bruising
- Pains in your stomach, which can occur with blood in your faeces (poo)
- Pains in your chest, muscles or joints and muscle weakness
- Arthritis
- Problems with your urine. Difficulty passing urine. Passing more or less urine than usual. Blood or cloudiness in your urine.
- Kidney problems
- Sudden headache or stiffness of your neck, accompanied by fever (high temperature)
- Problems controlling your movements
- Fits (convulsions or seizures)
- Feeling unsteady or giddy
- Ringing or other unusual sounds in your ears
- Tingling or numbness in your hands and feet
- Seeing strange or unusual sights (hallucinations)
- Depression
- Muscle pain and/or muscle weakness in HIV patients

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

How to store Co-trimazol
Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not store above 25ºC.
Do not take the tablets after the expiry date shown on the bottle label and carton.