



Bactrim®

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Sulfamethoxazole + trimethoprim

Composition

Active substances:

Trimethoprim (TM) and sulfamethoxazole (SMZ). The combination of the two active substances TM and SMZ has established itself under the name co-trimoxazole.

Excipients:

Bacitram tablets: Excipients for tablets.

Bacitram Forte tablets:

Excipients for tablets.

Bacitram syrup for children:

Flavouring agents: ethyl vanillin, vanillin and others; preservatives: E216, E218; excipients for suspension.

Pharmaceutical form and quantity of active substance per unit

Bacitram tablets:

white scored tablets, 80 mg TM and 400 mg SMZ.

Bacitram Forte tablets:

beige-white scored tablets, 160 mg TM and 800 mg SMZ.

Bacitram syrup for children:

flavouring agents: ethyl vanillin, vanillin and others; preservatives: E216, E218; excipients for suspension.

Indications and potential uses

Infections due to co-trimoxazole-sensitive organisms, such as:

Upper and lower respiratory tract and ear infections: acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis, pneumonia (including *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia), sinusitis, otitis media.

Urinary tract infections: acute and chronic cystitis, pyelonephritis, urethritis, prostatitis.

Gastrointestinal infections including typhoid and paratyphoid fever (including treatment of chronic carriers) and cholera (as an adjunct to fluid and electrolyte replacement).

Other bacterial infections due to sensitive organisms: acute bacillary dysentery, noscardiosis, mycobacteria (except when caused by true fungi), South American blastomycosis.

In osteomyelitis (the last drug in the group, ciprofloxacin is contraindicated), for multiresistant organisms shown to be sensitive to co-trimoxazole.

Official recommendations on the appropriate use of antibiotics should be followed, especially usage recommendations to prevent the increase in antibiotic resistance.

Dosage and administration

Standard dosage

Bactrim is administered every 12 hours. Adults and children over 12 years are generally treated with tablets or Forte tablets, children under 12 years with syrup for children.

Tableau 1 Usual dosage for adults and children over 12 years of age

	Tablets morning/evening	Tablets morning/evening	Forte tablets morning/evening	Forte tablets morning/evening
Standard dosage	2 : 2	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 1
Minimum dosage and dosage for long-term therapy (more than 14 days)	1 : 1	½ : ½	½ : ½	½ : ½
High dosage (for severe cases)	3 : 3	1 : 1	1 : 1	1 : 1

The pediatric doses shown in Table 2 are approximately equivalent to a daily dose of 6 mg TM and 30 mg SMZ per kg body weight. In severe infections the dosage for children may be increased by 50%.

Drug interactions:

Anticoagulants, urinary tract infections

Treatment for patients with acute uncomplicated urinary tract infections, a single dose of 2-3 Forte tablets is recommended. These are best taken in the evening after a meal or before going to bed.

Patients with *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia

The recommended dose is 160 mg TM and 800 mg SMZ per kg orally per 24 hours, given in equal divided doses every 6 hours for 14 days.

Table 3 below is a general guideline for the upper dosage limit, based on body weight in patients with *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia.

Table 3

Body weight (kg)	Dose – every 6 hours
8	1 (5 ml)
16	2 (10 ml)
24	3 (15 ml)
32	4 (20 ml)
40	5 (25 ml)
48	6 (30 ml)
64	8 (40 ml)
80	10 (50 ml)

Pneumocystis carini pneumonia prophylaxis

The recommended dosage for prophylaxis of *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia in adolescents and adults is 1 Forte tablet 3 times weekly or 1 standard tablet daily.

(For a comparison of the two options, see under Properties and effects, Clinical efficacy and pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.)

For children, the recommended dosage for prophylaxis of *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia is 150 mg/day of TM and 750 mg/day of SMZ orally, divided into two equal daily doses on three consecutive days per week. The maximum daily dose should not exceed 320 mg of TM and 1600 mg of SMZ.The following table is a general guideline for achieving the recommended dosage, based on body surface area (BSA), for prophylaxis of *Pneumocystis carini* pneumonia in children.

Table 4

Body surface area (m²)	Dose – every 12 hours
Measuring spoons of syrup	Tablets
0.26	½ (2.5 ml)
0.53	1 (5 ml)
1.06	2 (10 ml)

The optimum prophylactic dosage has not been determined.

The recommended dosage for adults with noscardiosis is 3-4 Forte tablets daily for at least 3 months. This dosage recommendation should be adapted to the patient's age, weight and renal function, and to the severity of the disease. There have been reports of long-term treatment for 18 months.

Patients with renal impairment

Dose recommendation for patients with renal impairment:

Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substances, to sulfonamides or trimethoprim, or to any of the constituent excipients.

Marked peripheral liver dysfunction.

Some rare life-threatening adverse reactions (>15 min/ml) unless TM and SMZ plasma concentrations can be determined repeatedly.

Megaloblastic anaemia due to folic acid deficiency.

Use in premature infants or neonates during the first 6 weeks of life, as this may increase the risk of kernicterus (see Pregnancy and lactation).

Use of the last trimester of pregnancy (see Pregnancy and lactation).

Combination with dofenidole (see Interactions).

Warnings and precautions

Bactrim should be used with caution in patients with a history of allergy or bronchial asthma.

Depending on dosage and duration of treatment, there is an increased risk of severe adverse reactions in elderly patients, in patients with complicating conditions such as renal or hepatic impairment, and in patients commonly receiving corticosteroids. The last factor, particularly if it has been reported in connection with adverse reactions such as blood dyscrasias, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (Lyell's syndrome), drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) and fulminant liver necrosis.

However, in elderly patients, Bactrim should be given to patients with normal renal function.

Severe persistent diarrhoea during or after treatment may be indicative of pseudomembranous colitis, which requires immediate treatment. In such cases, Bactrim should be discontinued and appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic measures initiated (e.g. oral vancomycin 250 mg 4 times daily). Antiperistaltic drugs should be used as soon as possible, particularly in elderly patients.

Method and duration of use

Bactrim is best taken with plenty of fluid after a meal.

In acute infections treatment with oral Bactrim should continue for at least 5 days.

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