

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Co-trimoxazole 960 mg tablets

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains:

Sulfamethoxazole Ph. Eur. 800 mg

Trimethoprim Ph. Eur. 160 mg

Excipients: For full list of excipients, see Section 6.1

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

White, uncoated, standard curvature, with one side breakline capsule shaped tablet.
The tablet can be divided into equal doses.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Co-Trimoxazole tablets are indicated in children (>12 to <18 years old) and adults (>18 years old) for the treatment of the following infections when owing to sensitive organisms (see section 5.1).

- Treatment and prevention of *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonitis or 'PJP'.
- Treatment and prophylaxis of toxoplasmosis.
- Treatment of nocardiosis.

The following infections may be treated with Co-trimoxazole tablets where there is bacterial evidence of sensitivity to Co-trimoxazole tablets and good reason to prefer the combination of antibiotics in Co-trimoxazole tablets to a single antibiotic:

Acute uncomplicated urinary tract infection

Acute otitis media

Acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

General dosage recommendations

Where dosage is expressed as "tablets" this refers to the adult Co-trimoxazole 960mg tablet, i.e 160 mg Trimethoprim BP and 800 mg Sulfamethoxazole BP. If other formulations are to be used appropriate adjustment should be made.

Standard dosage recommendations for acute infections.

Treatment should be continued until the patient has been symptom free for two days; the majority will require treatment for at least 5 days. If clinical improvement is not evident after 7 days' therapy, the patient should be reassessed.

Adults and children over 12 years:

Standard dosage	
Age	Daily dose
>18 years old	1 tablet every 12 hours

Children over 12 years old (>12 to <18 years old):

The standard dosage for children is equivalent to approximately 6 mg trimethoprim and 30 mg sulfamethoxazole per kg body weight per day, given in two equally divided doses. The schedules for children are according to the child's age and provided in the table below:

Age	Daily dose
>12 to <18 years old	1 tablet every 12 hours

Treatment should be continued until the patient has been symptom free for two days; the majority will require treatment for at least 5 days. If clinical improvement is not evident after 7 days' therapy, the patient should be reassessed.

As an alternative to Standard Dosage for acute uncomplicated lower urinary tract infections, short-term therapy of 1 to 3 days duration has been shown to be effective.

Elderly:

See Special Warnings and Precautions for Use (Section 4.4). Unless otherwise specified standard dosage applies.

Impaired hepatic function:

No data are available relating to dosage in patients with impaired hepatic function.

Impaired renal function:

Dosage recommendation:

Children (>12 to <18 years old) and adults (>18 years old):

Creatinine Clearance (ml/min)	Recommended Dosage
>30	1 tablet every 12 hours
15 to 30	1 tablet per day
<15	Not recommended

No information available for children aged 12 years and under with renal failure. See section 5.2 for the pharmacokinetics in the paediatric population with normal renal function of both components of Co-Trimoxazole, TMP and SMZ.

Measurements of plasma concentration of sulfamethoxazole at intervals of 2 to 3 days are recommended in samples obtained 12 hours after administration of Co-trimoxazole tablets. If the concentration of total sulfamethoxazole exceeds 150 microgram/ml then treatment should be interrupted until the value falls below 120 microgram/ml.

Pneumocystis jirovecii (formerly known as P.carinii) pneumonitis:

Treatment: Children (>12 to <18 years old) and adults (>18 years old):
A higher dosage is recommended using 20 mg trimethoprim and 100 mg sulfamethoxazole per kg of body weight per day in two or more divided doses for two weeks. The aim is to obtain peak plasma or serum levels of trimethoprim of greater than or equal to 5 microgram/ml (verified in patients receiving 1-hour infusions of intravenous Co-trimoxazole tablets). (See 4.8 Undesirable Effects).

Prevention: (>18 years old)

Adults: The following dose schedules may be used:
160 mg trimethoprim/800 mg sulfamethoxazole daily 7 days per week.
160 mg trimethoprim/800 mg sulfamethoxazole three times per week on alternative days.
320 mg trimethoprim/1600 mg sulfamethoxazole per day in two divided doses three times per week on alternative days.

Prevention - Children (>12 to <18 years old):

The standard dosage for children is equivalent to approximately 6 mg trimethoprim and 30 mg sulfamethoxazole per kg body weight per day, given in two equally divided doses.

The daily dose given on a treatment day approximates to 150 mg trimethoprim/m²/day and 750 mg sulfamethoxazole/m²/day. The total daily dose should not exceed 320 mg trimethoprim and 1600 mg sulfamethoxazole. The schedules according to the child's age that may be used for the duration of the period at risk are provided in the table below:

Age	Daily dose
>12 to <18 years old	1 tablet every 12 hours, seven days per week
>12 to <18 years old	1 tablet every 12 hours, three times per week on alternative days
>12 to <18 years old	1 tablet every 12 hours, three times per week on consecutive days
>12 to <18 years old	2 tablets once a day, three times per week on consecutive days

The daily dose given on a treatment day approximates to 150 mg trimethoprim/m²/day and 750 mg sulfamethoxazole/m²/day. The total daily dose should not exceed 320 mg trimethoprim and 1600 mg sulfamethoxazole.

Nocardiosis: Adults (>18 years old):

There is no consensus on the most appropriate dosage. Adult doses of 3 to 4 tablets daily for up to 3 months have been used (one tablet contains 400 mg sulfamethoxazole and 80 mg trimethoprim).

Toxoplasmosis:

There is no consensus on the most appropriate dosage for the treatment or prophylaxis of this condition. The decision should be based on clinical experience. For prophylaxis, however, the dosages suggested for prevention of *Pneumocystis jirovecii* (formerly known as *P. Carinii*) pneumonitis may be appropriate.

Method of administration

Oral

It may be preferable to take Co-trimoxazole tablets with some food or drink to minimise the possibility of gastrointestinal disturbances.

4.3 Contraindications

- Co-trimoxazole should not be given to patients with a history of hypersensitivity to sulphonamides, trimethoprim, cotrimoxazole or any excipients of Co-trimoxazole tablets listed in section 6.1.
- Contra-indicated in patients showing marked liver parenchymal damage.
- Contra-indicated in severe renal insufficiency where repeated measurements of the plasma concentration cannot be performed.

Co-Trimoxazole should not be given to infants during the first 6 weeks of life.
Co-Trimoxazole should not be given to patients with a history of drug-induced immune thrombocytopenia with use of trimethoprim and/or sulphonamides.
Co-Trimoxazole should not be given to patients with acute porphyria.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Fatalities, although very rare, have occurred due to severe reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, Lyell's syndrome (toxic epidermal necrolysis), fulminant hepatic necrosis, agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia, other blood dyscrasias and hypersensitivity of the respiratory tract.

- Life-threatening cutaneous reactions (Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) have been reported with the use of co-trimoxazole.
- Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for skin reactions. The highest risk for occurrence of SJS, TEN or DRESS is within the first weeks of treatment.
- If symptoms or signs of SJS, TEN or DRESS (e.g. progressive skin rash often with blisters or mucosal lesions) are present, co-trimoxazole treatment should be discontinued (see section 4.8 Undesirable Effects).
- The best results in managing SJS, TEN and DRESS come from early diagnosis and immediate discontinuation of any suspect drug. Early withdrawal is associated with a better prognosis.
- If the patient has developed SJS or TEN with the use of sulfamethoxazole, sulfamethoxazole must not be re-started in this patient at any time.
- At the start of treatment, the occurrence of a generalised febrile erythema associated with pustules, should raise the suspicion of acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) (see section 4.8); it requires cessation of treatment and contraindicates any new administration of Co-Trimoxazole alone or in combination with other drugs.

Elderly patients

Particular care is always advisable when treating elderly patients because, as a group, they are more susceptible to adverse reactions and more likely to suffer serious effects as a result particularly when complicating conditions exist, e.g. impaired kidney and/or liver function and/or concomitant use of other drugs.

Patients with renal impairment

For patients with known renal impairment special measures should be adopted (see section 4.2).

Urinary output

An adequate urinary output should be maintained at all times. Patients who are dehydrated may be at increased risk for the development of nephrotoxicity, crystalluria and nephrolithiasis. Evidence of crystalluria in vivo is rare, although sulphonamide crystals have been noted in cooled urine from treated patients. In patients suffering from malnutrition the risk may be increased.

Folate

Regular monthly blood counts are advisable when cotrimoxazole tablets is given for long periods, or to folate deficient patients or to the elderly, since there exists a possibility of asymptomatic changes in haematological laboratory indices due to lack of available folate. These changes may be reversed by administration of folic acid (5 to 10 mg/day) without interfering with the antibacterial activity.

Patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency

In glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD) deficient patients haemolysis may occur.

Patients with severe atopy or bronchial asthma

Cotrimoxazole tablets should be given with caution to patients with severe allergy or bronchial asthma.

Treatment of streptococcal pharyngitis due to Group A beta-haemolytic streptococci

Co-trimoxazole should not be used in the treatment of streptococcal pharyngitis due to Group A beta-haemolytic streptococci; eradication of these organisms from the oropharynx is less effective than with penicillin.

Phenylalanine metabolism

Trimethoprim has been noted to impair phenylalanine metabolism but this is of no significance in phenylketonuric patients on appropriate dietary restriction.

Patients with or at risk of porphyria

The administration of Co-trimoxazole to patients known or suspected to be at risk of acute porphyria should be avoided. Both trimethoprim and sulphonamides (although not specifically sulfamethoxazole) have been associated with clinical exacerbation of porphyria.

Patients with hyperkalaemia and hyponatraemia

Spironolactone component with trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole (co-trimoxazole) leading to severe hyperkalaemia. Close monitoring of serum potassium and sodium is warranted in patients at risk of hyperkalaemia and hyponatraemia.

Metabolic acidosis

Co-Trimoxazole has been associated with metabolic acidosis when other possible underlying causes have been excluded. Close monitoring is always advisable when metabolic acidosis is suspected.

Patients with serious haematological disorders

Except under careful supervision Co-trimoxazole should not be given to patients with serious haematological disorders (see section 4.8 Undesirable Effects). Co-trimoxazole has been given to patients receiving cytotoxic therapy with little or no additional effect on the bone marrow or peripheral blood.

The combination of antibiotics in cotrimoxazole tablets should only be used where, in the judgement of the physician, the benefits of treatment outweigh any possible risks; consideration should be given to the use of a single effective antibacterial agent.

Respiratory toxicity

Very rare, severe cases of respiratory toxicity, sometimes progressing to Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), have been reported during co-trimoxazole treatment. The onset of pulmonary signs such as cough, fever, and dyspnoea in association with radiological signs

of pulmonary infiltrates, and deterioration in pulmonary function may be preliminary signs of ARDS. In such circumstances, co-trimoxazole should be discontinued and appropriate treatment given.

Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH)

Cases of HLH have been reported very rarely in patients treated with co-trimoxazole. HLH is a life-threatening syndrome of pathologic immune activation characterised by clinical signs and symptoms of an excessive systemic inflammation (e.g. fever, hepatosplenomegaly, hypertriglyceridaemia, hypofibrinogenaemia, high serum ferritin, cytopenias and haemophagocytosis). Patients who develop early manifestations of pathologic immune activation should be evaluated immediately. If diagnosis of HLH is established, co-trimoxazole treatment should be discontinued.

Excipients

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Trimethoprim may interfere with the estimation of serum/plasma creatinine when the alkaline picrate reaction is used. This may result in overestimation of serum/plasma creatinine of the order of 10%. The creatinine clearance is reduced: the renal tubular secretion of creatinine is decreased from 23% to 9% whilst the glomerular filtration remains unchanged.

In some situations, concomitant treatment with zidovudine may increase the risk of haematological adverse reactions to Co-trimoxazole. If concomitant treatment is necessary, consideration should be given to monitoring of haematological parameters.

Reversible deterioration in renal function has been observed in patients treated with Co-trimoxazole and cyclosporin following renal transplantation.

Concurrent use of rifampicin and Co-trimoxazole tablets results in a shortening of the plasma half-life of trimethoprim after a period of about one week. This is not thought to be of clinical significance.

When trimethoprim is administered simultaneously with drugs that form cations at physiological pH, and are also partly excreted by active renal secretion (e.g. procainamide, amantadine), there is the possibility of competitive inhibition of this process which may lead to an increase in plasma concentration of one or both of the drugs.

Diuretics (thiazides): In elderly patients concurrently receiving diuretics, mainly thiazides, there appears to be an increased risk of thrombocytopenia with or without purpura.

Pyrimethamine: Occasional reports suggest that patients receiving pyrimethamine at doses in excess of 25 mg weekly may develop megaloblastic anaemia should Co-trimoxazole be prescribed concurrently.

Warfarin: Co-trimoxazole has been shown to potentiate the anticoagulant activity of warfarin via stereo-selective inhibition of its metabolism. Sulfamethoxazole may displace warfarin from plasma-albumin protein-binding sites *in vitro*.

Careful control of the anticoagulant therapy during treatment with Co-trimoxazole tablets are advisable.

Co-trimoxazole prolongs the half-life of phenytoin and if co-administered could result in excessive phenytoin effect. Close monitoring of the patient's condition and serum phenytoin levels are advisable.

Phenytoin: Co-trimoxazole prolongs the half-life of phenytoin and if co-administered could result in excessive phenytoin effect. Close monitoring of the patient's condition and serum phenytoin levels are advisable.

Digoxin: Concomitant use of trimethoprim with digoxin has been shown to increase plasma digoxin levels in a proportion of elderly patients.

Methotrexate: Co-trimoxazole may increase the free plasma levels of methotrexate. Trimethoprim interferes with assays for serum methotrexate when dihydrofolate reductase from *Lactobacillus casei* is used in the assay. No interference occurs if methotrexate is measured by radioimmuno assay. If Co-Trimoxazole is considered appropriate therapy in patients receiving other anti-folate drugs such as methotrexate, a folate supplement should be considered (see section 4.4).

Lamivudine: Administration of trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole 160 mg/800 mg (Co-trimoxazole) causes a 40% increase in lamivudine exposure because of the trimethoprim component. Lamivudine has no effect on the pharmacokinetics of trimethoprim or sulfamethoxazole.

Interaction with sulphonylurea hypoglycaemic agents is uncommon but potentiation has been reported.

Hyperkalaemia: Caution should be exercised in patients taking any other drugs that can cause hyperkalaemia, for example ACE inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers and potassium-sparing diuretics such as spironolactone. Concomitant use of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole (co-trimoxazole) may result in clinically relevant hyperkalaemia.

Repaglinide: trimethoprim may increase the exposure of repaglinide which may result in hypoglycaemia.

Folinic acid: folinic acid supplementation has been shown to interfere with the antimicrobial efficacy of trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole. This has been observed in *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia prophylaxis and treatment.

Contraceptives: oral contraceptive failures have been reported with antibiotics. The mechanism of this effect has not been elucidated. Women on treatment with antibiotics should temporarily use a barrier method in addition to the oral contraceptive, or choose another method of contraception.

Azathioprine: There are conflicting clinical reports of interactions between azathioprine and trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, resulting in serious haematological abnormalities.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are not any adequate data from the use of Co-trimoxazole tablets in pregnant women. Case-control studies have shown that there may be an association between exposure to folate antagonists and birth defects in humans.

Trimethoprim is a folate antagonist and, in animal studies, both agents have been shown to cause foetal abnormalities (see 5.3 Preclinical Safety Data). Co-trimoxazole tablets should not be used in pregnancy, particularly in the first trimester, unless clearly necessary. Folate supplementation should be considered if Co-trimoxazole tablets is used in pregnancy.

Sulfamethoxazole competes with bilirubin for binding to plasma albumin. As significantly maternally derived drug levels persist for several days in the newborn, there may be a risk of precipitating or exacerbating neonatal hyperbilirubinaemia, with an associated theoretical risk of kernicterus, when Co-trimoxazole tablets is administered to the mother near the time of delivery. This theoretical risk is particularly relevant in infants at increased risk of hyperbilirubinaemia, such as those who are preterm and those with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency.

Lactation

The components of Co-trimoxazole tablets (sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim) are excreted in breast milk. Administration of Co-trimoxazole tablets should be avoided in late pregnancy and in lactating mothers where the mother or infant has, or is at particular risk of developing, hyperbilirubinaemia. Additionally, administration of Co-trimoxazole tablets should be avoided in infants younger than eight weeks in view of the predisposition of young infants to hyperbilirubinaemia.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

There have been no studies to investigate the effect of Co-trimoxazole on driving performance or the ability to operate machinery. However, there are some side effects (such as hallucination, dizziness, somnolence, and vertigo) associated with this product that may affect some patients' ability to drive or operate machinery (see section 4.8).

4.8 Undesirable effects

As co-trimoxazole contains trimethoprim and a sulphonamide the type and frequency of adverse reactions associated with such compounds are expected to be consistent with extensive historical experience.

Data from large published clinical trials were used to determine the frequency of very common to rare adverse events. Very rare adverse events were primarily determined from post-marketing experience data and therefore refer to reporting rate rather than a "true" frequency. In addition, adverse events may vary in their incidence depending on the indication.

The following convention has been used for the classification of adverse events in terms of frequency:- Very common $\geq 1/10$, common $\geq 1/100$ and $< 1/10$, uncommon $\geq 1/1000$ and $< 1/100$, rare $\geq 1/10,000$ and $< 1/1000$, very rare $< 1/10,000$, not known - cannot be estimated from the available data.

Infections and Infestations

Common:	Overgrowth fungal
Very rare	Pseudomembranous colitis

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Very rare:	Leucopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis, anaemia megaloblastic, aplastic anaemia, haemolytic anaemia, methaemoglobinaemia, eosinophilia, purpura, haemolysis in certain susceptible G-6-PD deficient patients.
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Immune system disorders

Very rare:	Serum sickness, anaphylactic reactions, allergic myocarditis, hypersensitivity vasculitis resembling Henoch-Schoenlein purpura, periarteritis nodosa, systemic lupus erythematosus. Severe hypersensitivity reactions associated with PJP*, rash, pyrexia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, hepatic enzyme increased, hyperkalaemia, hyponatraemia, rhabdomyolysis.
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Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Very common:	Hyperkalaemia
Very rare:	Hypoglycaemia, hyponatraemia, decreased appetite, metabolic acidosis

Psychiatric disorders

Very rare:	Depression, hallucinations
Not known	Psychotic disorder.

Nervous system disorders:

Common:	Headache
Very rare:	Meningitis aseptic*, seizure, neuropathy peripheral, ataxia, dizziness

Ear and Labrynth disorders:

Very rare:	Vertigo, tinnitus
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Eye disorders:

Very rare:	Uveitis
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Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

Very rare:	Cough*, dyspnoea*, lung infiltration*.
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Gastrointestinal disorders

Common:	Nausea, diarrhoea
Uncommon:	Vomiting
Very rare:	Glossitis, stomatitis, pancreatitis

Hepatobiliary disorders:

Very rare:	Jaundice cholestatic *, hepatic necrosis*. Transaminases increased, blood bilirubin increased.
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Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Common:	Rash
Very rare:	Photosensitivity reaction, dermatitis exfoliative, angioedema, fixed drug eruption, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) *, toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)*, Acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP).
Not known:	Acute febrile neutrophilic dermatosis (Sweet's syndrome), Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)*

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

Very rare:	Arthralgia, myalgia
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Renal and urinary disorders

Very rare:	Renal impairment (sometimes reported as renal failure), tubulointerstitial nephritis and uveitis syndrome, renal tubular acidosis.
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Vascular disorders

Not known:	Circulatory shock
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* see description of selected adverse reactions

Description of selected adverse reactions

Circulatory shock

Cases of circulatory shock, often accompanied by fever and not responding to standard treatment for hypersensitivity, have been reported with sulfamethoxazole + trimethoprim, mainly in immunocompromised patients.

Aseptic meningitis

Aseptic meningitis was rapidly reversible on withdrawal of the drug, but recurred in a number of cases on re-exposure to either co-trimoxazole or to trimethoprim alone.

Pulmonary hypersensitivity reactions

Cough, dyspnoea and lung infiltration may be early indicators of respiratory hypersensitivity which, while very rare, has been fatal.

Hepatobiliary disorders

Jaundice cholestatic and hepatic necrosis may be fatal.

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs)

Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) have been reported to be life-threatening (see section 4.4)

As with any other drug, allergic reactions such as an itchy rash and hives may occur in patients with hypersensitivity to the components of the drug. Very rare cases of acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been observed (see section 4.4).

Effects associated with *Pneumocystis jirovecii* Pneumonitis (PJP) management

Very rare: Severe hypersensitivity reactions, rash, pyrexia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, hepatic enzyme increased, hyperkalaemia, hyponatraemia, rhabdomyolysis.

At the high dosages used for PJP management severe hypersensitivity reactions have been reported, necessitating cessation of therapy. Severe hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in PJP patients on re-exposure to co-trimoxazole, sometimes after a dosage interval of a few days. Rhabdomyolysis has been reported in HIV positive patients receiving co-trimoxazole for prophylaxis or treatment of PJP.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the **Google Play** or **Apple App Store**. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

4.9 Overdose

Nausea, vomiting, dizziness and confusion are likely signs/symptoms of overdose. Bone marrow depression has been reported in acute trimethoprim overdose.

If vomiting has not occurred, induction of vomiting may be desirable. Gastric lavage may be useful, though absorption from the gastrointestinal tract is normally very rapid and complete within approximately two hours. This may not be the case in gross overdose. Dependant on the status of renal function administration of fluids is recommended if urine output is low.

Both trimethoprim and active sulphamethoxazole are moderately dialysable by haemodialysis. Peritoneal dialysis is not effective.

5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Combinations of sulfonamides and trimethoprim, incl. derivatives;

ATC code: J01EE01

Mechanism of action

Co-trimoxazole tablets is an antibacterial drug composed of two active principles, sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim. Sulfamethoxazole is a competitive inhibitor of dihydropteroate synthetase enzyme. Sulfamethoxazole competitively inhibits the utilisation of para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) in the synthesis of dihydrofolate by the bacterial cell resulting in bacteriostasis. Trimethoprim binds to and reversibly inhibits bacterial dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) and blocks the production of tetrahydrofolate. Depending on the conditions the effect may be bactericidal. Thus

trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole block two consecutive steps in the biosynthesis of purines and therefore nucleic acids essential to many bacteria. This action produces marked potentiation of activity in vitro between the two agents.

Mechanism of resistance

In vitro studies have shown that bacterial resistance can develop more slowly with both sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim in combination than with either sulfamethoxazole or trimethoprim alone.

Resistance to sulfamethoxazole may occur by different mechanisms. Bacterial mutations cause an increase in the concentration of PABA and thereby out-compete with sulfamethoxazole resulting in a reduction of the inhibitory effect on dihydropteroate synthetase enzyme. Another resistance mechanism is plasmid-mediated and results from production of an altered dihydropteroate synthetase enzyme, with reduced affinity for sulfamethoxazole compared to the wild-type enzyme.

Resistance to trimethoprim occurs through a plasmid-mediated mutation which results in production of an altered dihydrofolate reductase enzyme having a reduced affinity for trimethoprim compared to the wild-type enzyme.

Trimethoprim binds to plasmodial DHFR but less tightly than to bacterial enzyme. Its affinity for mammalian DHFR is some 50,000 times less than for the corresponding bacterial enzyme.

Many common pathogenic bacteria are susceptible in vitro to trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole at concentrations well below those reached in blood, tissue fluids and urine after the administration of recommended doses. In common with other antibiotics, however, in vitro activity does not necessarily imply that clinical efficacy has been demonstrated and it must be noted that satisfactory susceptibility testing is achieved only with recommended media free from inhibitory substances, especially thymidine and thymine.

Breakpoints

EUCAST

Enterobacteriaceae:	$S \leq 2$ $R > 4$
<i>S. maltophilia</i> :	$S \leq 4$ $R > 4$
Acinetobacter:	$S \leq 2$ $R > 4$
Staphylococcus:	$S \leq 2$ $R > 4$
Enterococcus:	$S \leq 0.032$ $R > 1$
Streptococcus ABCG:	$S \leq 1$ $R > 2$

Streptococcus pneumoniae: S ≤ 1 R > 2

Hemophilus influenzae: S ≤ 0.5 R > 1

Moraxella catarrhalis: S ≤ 0.5 R > 1

Pseudomonas aeruginosa and other non-enterobacteriaceae: S ≤ 2* R > 4*

S = susceptible, R = resistant. *These are CLSI breakpoints since no EUCAST breakpoints are currently available for these organisms.

Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole in the ratio 1:19. Breakpoints are expressed as trimethoprim concentration.

Antibacterial Spectrum

The prevalence of resistance may vary geographically and with time for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections. As necessary, expert advice should be sought when the local prevalence of resistance is such that the utility of the agent in at least some types of infections is questionable. This information gives only an approximate guidance on probabilities whether microorganisms will be susceptible to trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole or not.

Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole susceptibility against a number of bacteria are shown in the table below:

Commonly susceptible species:
Gram-positive aerobes: Staphylococcus aureus Staphylococcus saprophyticus Streptococcus pyogenes
Gram-negative aerobes: Enterobacter cloacae Haemophilus influenzae Klebsiella oxytoca Moraxella catarrhalis Salmonella spp. Stenotrophomonas maltophilia Yersinia spp.
Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem:
Gram-positive aerobes: Enterococcus faecalis Enterococcus faecium Nocardia spp. Staphylococcus epidermidis Streptococcus pneumoniae
Gram-negative aerobes: Citrobacter spp. Enterobacter aerogenes Escherichia coli

Klebsiella pneumoniae Klebsiella pneumonia Proteus mirabilis Proteus vulgaris Providencia spp. Serratia marcesans
Inherently resistant organisms:
Gram-negative aerobes: Pseudomonas aeruginosa Shigella spp. Vibrio cholera

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

After oral administration trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole are rapidly and nearly completely absorbed. The presence of food does not appear to delay absorption. Peak levels in the blood occur between one and four hours after ingestion and the level attained is dose related. Effective levels persist in the blood for up to 24 hours after a therapeutic dose. Steady state levels in adults are reached after dosing for 2-3 days. Neither component has an appreciable effect on the concentrations achieved in the blood by the other.

Approximately 50% of Trimethoprim in the plasma is protein bound. Tissue levels of trimethoprim are generally higher than corresponding plasma levels, the lungs and kidneys showing especially high concentrations. Trimethoprim concentrations exceed those in plasma in the case of bile, prostatic fluid and tissue, saliva, sputum and vaginal secretions. Levels in the aqueous humor, breast milk, cerebrospinal fluid, middle ear fluid, synovial fluid and tissue (intestinal) fluid are adequate for antibacterial activity. Trimethoprim passes into amniotic fluid and foetal tissues reaching concentrations approximating those of maternal serum.

Approximately 66% of sulfamethoxazole in the plasma is protein bound. The concentration of active sulfamethoxazole in amniotic fluid, aqueous humour, bile, cerebrospinal fluid, middle ear fluid, sputum, synovial fluid and tissue (interstitial) fluids is of the order of 20 to 50% of the plasma concentration.

Renal excretion of intact sulfamethoxazole accounts for 15-30% of the dose. This drug is more extensively metabolised than trimethoprim, via acetylation, oxidation or glucuronidation. Over a 72 hour period, approximately 85% of the dose can be accounted for in the urine as unchanged drug plus the major (N4-acetylated) metabolite.

The half-life of trimethoprim in man is in the range 8.6 to 17 hours in the presence of normal renal function. It is increased by a factor of 1.5 to 3.0 when the creatinine

clearance is less than 10 ml/minute. There appears to be no significant difference in older patients compared with young patients.

The principal route of excretion of trimethoprim is renal and approximately 50% of the dose is excreted in the urine within 24 hours as unchanged drug. Several metabolites have been identified in the urine. Urinary concentrations of trimethoprim vary widely.

The half-life of sulfamethoxazole in man is approximately 9 to 11 hours in the presence of normal renal function. There is no change in the half-life of active sulfamethoxazole with a reduction in renal function but there is prolongation of the half-life of the major, acetylated metabolite when the creatinine clearance is below 25 ml/minute.

The principal route of excretion of sulfamethoxazole is renal; between 15% and 30% of the dose recovered in the urine is in the active form.

The pharmacokinetics in the pediatric population with normal renal function of both components of Co-trimoxazole Tablets, sulfamethoxazole & trimethoprim are age dependent. Elimination of sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim is reduced in neonates, during the first two months of life, thereafter both sulfamethoxazole & trimethoprim show a higher elimination with a higher body clearance and a shorter elimination half-life. The differences are most prominent in young infants (> 1.7 months up to 24 months) and decrease with increasing age, as compared to young children (1 year up to 3.6 years), children (7.5 years and < 10 years) and adults (see section 4.2).

In older patients there is a reduced renal clearance of sulfamethoxazole.

Special patient population

Renal impairment

The elimination half-life of trimethoprim is increased by a factor of 1.5-3.0 when the creatinine clearance is less than 10 mL/minute. When the creatinine clearance falls below 30 mL/min the dosage of Co-Trimoxazole should be reduced (see section 4.2).

Hepatic impairment

Caution should be exercised when treating patients with severe hepatic parenchymal damage as there may be changes in the absorption and biotransformation of trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole.

Elderly patients

In elderly patients, a slight reduction in renal clearance of sulfamethoxazole but not trimethoprim has been observed.

Paediatric population

See special dosage regimen (see section 4.2).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Reproductive toxicology:

At doses in excess of recommended human therapeutic dose, Trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole have been reported to cause cleft palate and other foetal abnormalities in rats, findings typical of a folate antagonist. Effects with trimethoprim were preventable by administration of dietary folate. In rabbits, foetal loss was seen at doses of trimethoprim in excess of human therapeutic doses.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Docusate Sodium

Magnesium Stearate

Sodium Starch Glycolate (Type A)

Povidone (PVP k 30)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

48 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Blister pack

PVC/aluminum foil blister pack of 10, 14 –with and without calendar pack, 28 – with and without calendar pack, 30, 50, 100.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

Trimethoprim interferes with assays for serum methotrexate when dihydrofolate reductase from *Lactobacillus casei* is used in the assay. No interference occurs if methotrexate is measured by radioimmuno assay.

Trimethoprim may interfere with the estimation of serum/plasma creatinine when the alkaline picrate reaction is used. This may result in overestimation of serum/plasma creatinine of the order of 10%. Functional inhibition of the renal tubular secretion of creatinine may produce a spurious fall in the estimated rate of creatinine clearance.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

DAWA Limited
5 Sandridge Close,
Harrow, Middlesex,
UK, HA1 1XD

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

PL 30684/0228

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

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10 DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

01/08/2025