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2. SMZ-TMP DS

SMZ-TMP DS

Generic name: [sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim](#)

Brand names: [Bactrim](#), Bactrim DS, [Septra](#), [Septra DS](#)

Dosage form: DS tablets (800mg/160mg)

Drug class: [Sulfonamides](#)

Medically reviewed by [Melisa Puckey, BPharm](#). Last updated on Jun 10, 2024.

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What is SMZ-TMP DS?

SMZ-TMP DS is a combination [antibiotic](#) used to treat ear infections, urinary tract infections, bronchitis, [traveler's diarrhea](#), [shigellosis](#), and Pneumocystis jiroveci [pneumonia](#). SMZ-TMP DS contains sulfamethoxazole and [trimethoprim](#).

Sulfamethoxazole is a sulfonamide antibiotic that prevents the growth of susceptible bacteria by interfering with their ability to make folic acid. Trimethoprim is an antifolate antibiotic that works by inhibiting an enzyme, resulting in bacteria's inability to make DNA and survive. Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim are combined because they are complementary and have a greater effect when used together.

Other brands of sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim are Bactrim, Bactrim DS, Septra, Septra DS, and it is also available as a generic medicine.

Important Information

You should not use SMZ-TMP DS if you have severe [liver disease](#), kidney disease that is not being monitored, anemia caused by [folic acid](#) deficiency, if you take [dofetilide](#), or if you have had low platelets caused by using trimethoprim or a sulfa drug.

You should not take SMZ-TMP DS if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use this medicine if you are allergic to sulfamethoxazole or trimethoprim, or if you have:

- severe liver disease;
- kidney disease that is not being treated or monitored;
- anemia (low red blood cells) caused by folic acid deficiency;
- a history of low blood platelets after taking trimethoprim or any sulfa drug; or

- if you take dofetilide ([Tikosyn](#)).

Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant. Use effective [birth control](#), and tell your doctor if you become pregnant.

Do not breastfeed while using this medicine.

This medicine should not be given to a child younger than 2 months old.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- kidney or liver disease;
- a folate (folic acid) deficiency;
- [asthma](#) or severe [allergies](#);
- a thyroid disorder;
- [HIV](#) or AIDS;
- malnourishment;
- [alcoholism](#);
- high levels of potassium in your blood;
- [porphyria](#), or glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency; or
- if you use a blood thinner (such as [warfarin](#)) and you have routine "INR" or prothrombin time tests.

 [SMZ-TMP DS pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I use SMZ-TMP DS?

SMZ-TMP DS is taken by mouth (oral).

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Drink plenty of fluids to prevent [kidney stones](#) while you are using this medicine.

Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim doses are based on weight in children. Use only the recommended dose when giving this medicine to a child.

Use this medicine for the full prescribed length of time, even if your symptoms quickly improve. Skipping doses can increase your risk of infection that is resistant to medication. This medicine will not treat a [viral infection](#) such as the flu or a [common cold](#).

You may need frequent medical tests.

This medicine can affect the results of certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim.

Store at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed SMZ-TMP DS dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Use the medicine as soon as you can, but skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next dose. Do not use two doses at one time.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include loss of appetite, [vomiting](#), fever, blood in your urine, yellowing of your skin or eyes, confusion, or loss of consciousness.

What should I avoid while using SMZ-TMP DS?

Antibiotic medicines can cause [diarrhea](#), which may be a sign of a new infection. If you have diarrhea that is watery or bloody, call your doctor before using anti-diarrhea medicine.

SMZ-TMP DS could make you sunburn more easily. Avoid sunlight or tanning beds. Wear protective clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

SMZ-TMP DS side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have signs of an allergic reaction ([hives](#), cough, shortness of breath, swelling in your face or throat) or a severe skin reaction (fever, [sore throat](#), burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple [skin rash](#) with blistering and peeling).

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe stomach pain, diarrhea that is watery or bloody (even if it occurs months after your last dose);
- a skin rash, no matter how mild;
- yellowing of your skin or eyes;
- a seizure;
- new or unusual joint pain;
- increased or decreased urination;
- swelling, bruising, or irritation around the IV needle;
- increased thirst, dry mouth, fruity breath odor;
- an electrolyte imbalance--[headache](#), confusion, weakness, slurred speech, tingly feeling, chest pain, irregular heartbeats, loss of coordination or movement, feeling unsteady; or
- low blood cell counts--fever, chills, mouth sores, skin sores, easy bruising, unusual bleeding, pale skin, [cold hands](#) and feet, feeling light-headed or short of breath.

Common side effects may include:

- [nausea](#), vomiting, loss of appetite; or
- mild itching or rash.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [SMZ-TMP DS side effects](#) (more detail)

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What other drugs will affect SMZ-TMP DS?

You may need more frequent check-ups or medical tests if you also use medicine to treat [depression](#), diabetes, [seizures](#), or HIV.

Many drugs can interact, and some drugs should not be used together. Tell your doctor about all your current medicines, especially:

- [amantadine](#), [cyclosporine](#), [indomethacin](#), [leucovorin](#), [methotrexate](#), pyrimethamine;
- an "ACE inhibitor" heart or blood pressure medication ([benazepril](#), [enalapril](#), [lisinopril](#), [quinapril](#), [ramipril](#), and others); or
- a diuretic or "water pill" ([chlorthalidone](#), [hydrochlorothiazide](#), and others).

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible drug interactions are listed here.

 [SMZ-TMP DS drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does SMZ-TMP DS interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

SMZ-TMP DS

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Further information

- Your pharmacist can provide more information about sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim.

Popular FAQ

What drugs should be avoided with a sulfa allergy?



Does Bactrim cause headaches?



More FAQ

- [Can I drink alcohol when taking sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim DS?](#)
- [What dose of co-trimoxazole is used in a patient with a UTI?](#)

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More about SMZ-TMP DS (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim)

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- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: sulfonamides](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Bactrim](#), [Septra](#), [Septra DS](#), [Cotrim](#), ... +2 more

Professional resources

- [Sulfamethoxazole and Trimethoprim Suspension prescribing information](#)

Other brands

[Bactrim](#), [Septra](#), [Co-trimoxazole](#), [Sulfatrim](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Bacterial Infection](#)
- [Bacterial Skin Infection](#)
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Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)

Antibiotics 101

[List of Common Antibiotics & Types](#)

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[Antibiotics for Strep Throat](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

Pregnancy & Lactation

 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



User Reviews & Ratings

4.6 / 10

[54 Reviews](#)

Images

[Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim DS 800 mg / 160 mg \(IP 272\)](#)



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