

What is Bactrim?

Sulfamethoxazole and trimethoprim combination (known commonly by the brand names Bactrim and Septra) is used to treat urinary infections such as bronchitis, middle ear infections, urinary tract infections, and traveler's diarrhea. It is also used prophylactically for recurrent urinary tract infections and in children with vesicoureteral reflux. It will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any medications or have any other medical problems, especially anemia or other blood problems.

How do I properly use Bactrim?

Bactrim is best taken with a full (8 oz) glass of water. Several additional glasses of water should be taken every day, unless otherwise directed by your physician. Infants and small children should be offered fluids as desired. To help clear up your infection completely, keep taking this medication for the full time of treatment even if you feel better after a few days. **Do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible, spacing out the remaining doses.** If you take one dose a day, try to take it the same time each day.

What are possible side effects of Bactrim?

Side effects that should be reported to your doctor immediately include:

- Blood in urine, bluish fingernails, lips, or skin, and difficulty breathing (all rare side effects).

- Aching of joints and muscles, difficulty in swallowing, pale skin, redness, blistering, peeling or loosening of the skin, sore throat and fever, unusual bleeding or bruising, unusual tiredness or weakness (less common side effects).
- Itching or skin rash (more common side effects).

Side effects that usually do not require medical attention include diarrhea, dizziness, headache, loss of appetite, nausea, or vomiting (more common side effects).

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