

Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) basics

Kills bacteria. Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) is good for treating many bacterial infections and is available as a generic. However, you can be more likely to sunburn.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from Hours to Days]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Diarrhea	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Nausea	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Loss of appetite		[Red bar from Days to Weeks]			
Rash	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
Serious allergic reaction	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) exactly the way your doctor tells you.
- Can make you more sensitive to the sun. Keep out of the sun or wear protection while under the sun.
- Drink plenty of water or liquids while on Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) to avoid harming your kidneys.
- Can cause upset stomach.
- Can cause an allergic reaction. Talk to your doctor if you notice skin rash or swelling of your face.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Diarrhea

Like all antibiotics, Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) can cause diarrhea. Taking probiotic supplements a few hours after taking Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim) may help with the diarrhea. If diarrhea worsens or becomes bloody, talk to your doctor right away.

Sunburn

Your skin can be more likely to sunburn while you're on Bactrim (sulfamethoxazole / trimethoprim). Avoid tanning or tanning beds, and put on sunblock if you have to be out in the sun.

Rash

There have been reports of severe skin rash that can require hospitalization or can cause death. These have been rare. Talk to your doctor immediately if you suddenly develop a severe blistering skin rash with fever.