

Trimethoprim/Sulfa

(SMZ-TMP, Bactrim, Septra)

Common Drug Name

Trimethoprim with sulfamethoxazole
Trimethoprim with sulfadiazine
TMP-SMZ (or SMZ-TMP)
TMP-SDZ

Common Brand Names

Bactrim, Septra, and Tribissen
Generic products are available.

Storage

Store at room temperature in a tight, light resistant, childproof container.

Uses

Trimethoprim/sulfa is used to treat susceptible bacterial and protozoal infections in multiple species.

Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian. If you have difficulty giving the medication, contact your veterinarian.

Shake liquid forms well before use.

Give by mouth. This medication may be given with food.

If you miss a dose, give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the one you missed and go back to the regular schedule. Do not give 2 doses at once.

This medication should only be given to the pet for whom it was prescribed.

Possible Side Effects

It is common to find sulfa crystals in the animal's urine during a urinalysis (a test on the urine), which does not pose a problem in animals that remain well hydrated.

Less commonly keratoconjunctivitis sicca (KCS, dry eye) may occur with long-term use of trimethoprim/sulfa. Stop giving the medication and consult your veterinarian if your pet experiences discharge from the eye, redness of the eye, squinting, or other signs related to the eye.

Cats will drool excessively if allowed to taste the medication.

Other less common side effects include anemia resulting in pale gums and tiredness; low platelets resulting in bleeding tendencies; fever; loss of appetite, vomiting; diarrhea; joint inflammation (arthritis) resulting in lameness; kidney damage resulting in increased thirst and urination; and skin rashes with possible sensitivity to sunlight. Stop giving the medication and consult your veterinarian if your pet experiences any of these signs.

If your pet experiences an allergic reaction to the medication, signs may include facial swelling, hives, scratching, sudden onset of diarrhea, vomiting, shock, seizures, pale gums, cold limbs, or coma. If you observe any of these signs, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Precautions

Not for use in animals who are hypersensitive (allergic) to it or other sulfa medications.

Not for use in pregnant or lactating animals (female animals nursing their young).

Not for use in animals with dehydration; bladder or kidney stones; or liver or kidney disease.

Use with caution in animals with blood cell abnormalities such as anemia.

The pet should be encouraged to drink water to prevent crystals from forming in the urine.

Consult with your veterinarian regarding the physical examinations and laboratory testing necessary prior to and during treatment with trimethoprim/sulfa.

Drug, Food, and Test Interactions

Consult your veterinarian before using trimethoprim/sulfa with other medications, including vitamins and supplements, methotrexate, warfarin, phenylbutazone, thiazide, diuretics, salicylates (aspirin), probenecid, antacids, or phenytoin, since interactions may occur.

No known food interactions.

Dogs can develop hypothyroidism with long-term use.

Signs of Toxicity/Overdose

Signs of toxicity or overdose are similar to the side effects listed above, and may also include depression, confusion, and facial swelling. If you know or suspect your pet has had an overdose, or if you observe any of these signs in your pet, contact your veterinarian immediately.

Keep this and all other medications out of the reach of children and pets.