

COTRIMOXAZOLE (Septra[®])

GENERIC NAMES	BRAND NAMES	REASON FOR USE
Sulfamethoxazole/ Trimethoprim <u>or</u> Cotrimoxazole Strengths: Single strength (400/80 mg) Double strength (800/160 mg)	SEPTRA [®] (and generics)	This drug is a combination of two antibiotics. It is used to prevent or treat a type of pneumonia called PCP. You are more susceptible to this infection when your immune system is suppressed.

SIDE EFFECTS

1. SKIN RASH

You may be allergic to the 'sulfa' part of the drug. If this occurs, stop taking this medication and report this to your transplant team. A different drug may be prescribed.

2. SENSITIVITY TO SUNLIGHT

Your skin may burn more easily if exposed to the sun. Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight and wear protective clothing or sunscreen products on all sun-exposed areas, even in the winter.

3. DECREASED BLOOD CELL COUNTS

Your blood cell counts will be monitored. If this side effect occurs your transplant team may ask you to stop taking this medication until your blood counts recover. This should only be decided by your transplant team.

4. FEVER

A fever is a temperature above 37.5°C or 99.5°F. Fever should be reported to a doctor or your transplant team **immediately**. Fever may be a sign of infection, rejection or an allergic reaction to this medication. Acetaminophen (Tylenol[®]) may be used to control the fever.

HOW TO USE THIS DRUG

- This medication may be taken with or without food.
- Take this medication exactly as your doctor has prescribed. This may be once daily, or only on certain days of the week, or in some cases twice daily. Always follow the instructions given to you by your transplant team.

