

METHOTREXATE + TRIMETHOPRIM or CO-TRIMOXAZOLE???

My
patient
is taking
methotrexate

Is it safe to
prescribe or
dispense
trimethoprim or
co-trimoxazole?

WHAT IS
THE RISK?

Increased risk of bone
marrow suppression with
potentially severe
(sometimes fatal)
pancytopenia

Mechanism not fully
understood but may
be due to additive
antifolate effects

Effects may take up to 2 weeks
to appear and may persist for 4
weeks.

It can take up to 4 weeks after
last dose of methotrexate, for
the drug and its effects to be
safely out of system

Sulfamethoxazole in
co-trimoxazole can
also increase
methotrexate levels

ADVICE

**DO NOT PRESCRIBE
TOGETHER**
(VERY FEW EXCEPTIONS)

Exceptions:

- PCP treatment - see guidance
- PCP prophylaxis in cancer patients
- No alternative options and discussed with ID/Micro

If co-prescribed: ensure
patient aware of risks
and signs of bone
marrow suppression to
report & monitor FBC
frequently