

Patient Education

BUPROPION EXTENDED RELEASE - ORAL (ANTIDEPRESSANT)

IMPORTANT NOTE: The following information is intended to supplement, not substitute for, the expertise and judgment of your physician, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. It should not be construed to indicate that use of the drug is safe, appropriate, or effective for you. Consult your healthcare professional before using this drug.

BUPROPION EXTENDED RELEASE - ORAL (ANTIDEPRESSANT)

(byou-PRO-pee-on)

COMMON BRAND NAME(S): Wellbutrin XL

USES:

This medication is used to treat major depression.

This medication works by helping to restore the balance of natural chemicals in the brain.

OTHER USES:

This medication may also be used for quitting smoking.

HOW TO USE:

Take this medication by mouth, usually once daily with or without food. If nausea occurs, you may take this drug with food.

Do not crush, chew or break the tablets. Swallow tablets whole.

Since this drug may cause sleeplessness at first, it is best not to take near bedtime.

The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy.

Do not take more or less medication than prescribed. Taking more than the recommended dose of bupropion will increase your risk of having a seizure. The maximum dose of bupropion is 300 - 450 milligrams per day, depending on your medical condition (stop smoking therapy vs. psychiatric conditions). If you have very severe liver disease, the maximum dose is 150 milligrams every other day.

Do not stop taking this medication without notifying your doctor. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, use it at the same time each day.

It may take 4 weeks or more before the full effects of this medication are noticed.

Read the patient information leaflet provided by your pharmacist.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, stomach/abdominal pain, flushing, headache/migraine, loss of appetite, trouble sleeping, increased sweating, strange taste in mouth, weakness, drowsiness, or blurred vision may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: dizziness, fainting, chest pain, fast heartbeat, tremor, unusual weight loss or gain, ringing in the ears, severe headache, unusual or severe mental/mood changes (e.g., hallucinations, anxiety, nervousness, agitation, confusion, restlessness), decreased sex drive, difficulty urinating.

Seek immediate medical attention if the following infrequent but serious side effect occurs: seizures.

Bupropion should be stopped permanently if you have a seizure while taking the medication.

An allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing, muscle aches, joint pain, fever.

An empty tablet shell may appear in your stool. This is harmless.

If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking bupropion, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it or if you have any other allergies.

This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: seizures, eating disorders (e.g., bulimia, anorexia nervosa).

This medication should not be used if you are suddenly stopping regular use of sedatives (e.g., benzodiazepines such as diazepam) or alcohol, since doing so creates a higher risk of seizures.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: head injury, brain tumor, liver problems, heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney problems, any mental conditions, diabetes, alcohol/drug dependence, intention to quit smoking.

This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery.

Limit or avoid consumption of alcoholic beverages. Alcohol can increase your risk of seizures.

Do not take this medicine with any other product containing bupropion (e.g., drugs to help quit smoking) since large doses of bupropion are more likely to cause seizures.

Though uncommon, depression can lead to thoughts or attempts of suicide. Tell your doctor immediately if you have any suicidal thoughts, worsening depression, or any other mental/mood changes (including new or worsening anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, trouble sleeping, irritability, hostile/angry feelings, impulsive actions, severe restlessness, rapid speech). Keep all medical appointments so your healthcare professional can monitor your progress closely and adjust/change your medication if needed.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

If this medication is used during the last 3 months of pregnancy, infrequently your newborn may develop symptoms including feeding or breathing difficulties, seizures, muscle stiffness,

jitteriness, or constant crying. However, do not stop taking this medication unless your doctor directs you to do so. Report any such symptoms to your doctor promptly.

Bupropion passes into breast milk. Because of the potential risk to the infant, breast-feeding is not recommended while using this drug.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, selegiline, isocarboxazid, tranylcypromine).

If you are currently using or have recently stopped taking an MAO inhibitor within the last 14 days, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting bupropion.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription products you may use, especially of: warfarin, levodopa, ritonavir, diabetes medications (e.g., hypoglycemic agents such as glyburide, glipizide, or insulin), amantadine, adrenaline-like stimulants (e.g., ephedrine), products containing nicotine (e.g., patches, gum, or spray), regular use of sedatives (e.g., diazepam).

Also tell your doctor if you are taking any drugs which are affected by certain liver enzymes (CYP 2D6 or CYP 2B6 substrates, inhibitors, or inducers), such as: certain SSRI antidepressants (e.g., paroxetine, fluoxetine, sertraline), beta-blockers (e.g., metoprolol), antiarrhythmics (e.g., propafenone, flecainide), orphenadrine, thiotepa, cyclophosphamide, carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, valproic acid.

Also report the use of drugs which might increase seizure risk (decrease seizure threshold) when combined with bupropion such as phenothiazines (e.g., thioridazine), tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline), isoniazid (INH), or theophylline among others. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for details.

Excess caffeine intake can increase the chance of seizures with this drug. Check all nonprescription/prescription drug labels for caffeine. Consult your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

OVERDOSE:

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. US residents can call the US national poison hotline at 1-800-222-1222. Canadian residents should call their local poison control center directly. Symptoms of overdose may include seizures, severe confusion, hallucinations, rapid heart rate, and loss of consciousness.

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others.

Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., blood pressure monitoring) should be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

MISSED DOSE:

If you miss a dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up. Taking too much of this medication can increase your chance of having a seizure.

STORAGE:

Store at room temperature at 77 degrees F (25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 59 and 86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) is permitted. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.

MEDICAL ALERT: Your condition can cause complications in a medical emergency. For enrollment information call MedicAlert at 1-800-854- 1166 (USA) or 1-800-668-1507 (Canada).