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## Bupropion: Patient drug information

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(For additional information [see "Bupropion: Drug information"](#) and [see "Bupropion: Pediatric drug information"](#))

**Brand Names: US** Aplenzin; Buproban [DSC]; Forfivo XL; Wellbutrin SR; Wellbutrin XL; Wellbutrin [DSC]; Zyban

**Brand Names: Canada** Wellbutrin SR; Wellbutrin XL; Zyban

## Warning

- Drugs like this one have raised the chance of suicidal thoughts or actions in children and young adults. The risk may be greater in people who have had these thoughts or actions in the past. All people who take this drug need to be watched closely. Call the doctor right away if signs like low mood (depression), nervousness, restlessness, grouchiness, panic attacks, or changes in mood or actions are new or worse. Call the doctor right away if any thoughts or actions of suicide occur.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat low mood (depression).
- It is used to treat seasonal affective disorder (SAD).
- It is used to help you stop smoking.
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with the doctor.

## What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?

- If you have an allergy to bupropion or any other part of this drug.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have ever had seizures.
- If you drink a lot of alcohol and you stop drinking all of a sudden.

- If you use certain other drugs like drugs for seizures or anxiety and you stop using them all of a sudden.
- If you have ever had an eating problem like anorexia or bulimia.
- If you have any of these health problems: Kidney disease or liver disease.
- If you have taken certain drugs used for low mood (depression) like isocarboxazid, phenelzine, or tranylcypromine or drugs used for Parkinson's disease like selegiline or rasagiline in the last 14 days. Taking this drug within 14 days of those drugs can cause very bad high blood pressure.
- If you are taking any of these drugs: Linezolid or methylene blue.
- If you are taking another drug that has the same drug in it.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

## What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

### **For all patients taking this drug:**

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Avoid driving and doing other tasks or actions that call for you to be alert or have clear eyesight until you see how this drug affects you.
- This drug may affect certain lab tests. Tell all of your health care providers and lab workers that you take this drug.
- Do not stop taking this drug all of a sudden without calling your doctor. You may have a greater risk of side effects. If you need to stop this drug, you will want to slowly stop it as ordered by your doctor.
- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- This drug may raise the chance of seizures. The chance may be higher in people who have certain health problems, use certain other drugs, or drink a lot of alcohol. Talk to your doctor to see if you have a greater chance of seizures while taking this drug.
- Avoid drinking alcohol while taking this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before you use other drugs and natural products that slow your actions.
- It may take several weeks to see the full effects.
- Some people may have a higher chance of eye problems with this drug. Your doctor may want you to have an eye exam to see if you have a higher chance of these eye problems. Call your doctor right away if you have eye pain, change in eyesight, or swelling or redness in or around the eye.
- If you are taking digoxin, talk with your doctor. You may need to have your blood work checked more closely while you are taking it with this drug.
- This drug is not approved for use in children. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

**If you smoke:**

- Not all products are approved for use to help stop smoking. Talk with the doctor to make sure that you have the right product.
- New or worse mental, mood, or behavior problems have happened when bupropion has been used to stop smoking. These problems include thoughts of suicide or killing someone else, depression, forceful actions, fury, anxiety, and anger. These problems have happened in people with and without a history of mental or mood problems. Talk with the doctor.

**What are some side effects that I need to call my doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.
- Change in how you act.
- Feeling confused.
- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there).
- If seizures are new or worse after starting this drug.
- A big weight gain or loss.
- Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Swelling.
- Shortness of breath.
- Change in hearing.
- Ringing in ears.
- Passing urine more often.
- Swollen gland.
- Trouble moving around.
- Very bad muscle or joint pain.
- A very bad skin reaction (Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) may happen. It can cause very bad health problems that may not go away, and sometimes death. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin (with or without fever); red or irritated eyes; or sores in your mouth, throat, nose, or eyes.

**What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

**All products:**

- Dizziness.
- Headache.
- Belly pain.
- Shakiness.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Strange or odd dreams.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Constipation.
- Gas.
- Dry mouth.
- Not able to sleep.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Sweating a lot.
- Not hungry.
- A change in weight without trying.

**Extended-release tablets:**

- For some brands, you may see the tablet shell in your stool. For these brands, this is normal and not a cause for concern. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

## How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

**For all patients taking this drug:**

- Do not take this drug more often than you are told. This may raise the risk of seizures. Be sure you know how far apart to take your doses.
- Take in the morning if taking once a day.
- Take with or without food.
- If you are not able to sleep, do not take this drug too close to bedtime. Talk with your doctor.
- Swallow whole. Do not chew, break, or crush.
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
- If you have trouble swallowing, talk with your doctor.

**For stopping smoking:**

- You may take this drug for 1 week before you stop smoking.

- Nicotine products and counseling may be used at the same time for best results.
- If you have not been able to quit smoking after taking this drug for 12 weeks, talk with your doctor.
- You may have signs of nicotine withdrawal when you try to quit smoking even when using drugs like this one to help you quit smoking. There are many signs of nicotine withdrawal. Rarely depression and suicidal thoughts have happened in people trying to quit smoking. Talk with your doctor.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

## How do I store and/or throw out this drug?

- Store at room temperature.
- Protect from light.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.
- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Keep a list of all your drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your doctor.
- Talk with the doctor before starting any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

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