



Bupropion

What you should know about taking bupropion (Wellbutrin)

Bupropion is also known by the brand names Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin XL, Wellbutrin SR, and Zyban. Zyban has been marketed for smoking cessation.

Bupropion acts on both the noradrenergic and dopaminergic systems.

Bupropion is used to treat depression and help people stop smoking.

Please contact your provider right away if you are having thoughts of suicide.

What should my health care provider know before I take this medication?

Alert your provider if you are taking any other medication or if you are pregnant, breastfeeding, or plan to become pregnant. Tell your provider if you've ever had bipolar disorder or a manic episode. Also, tell your doctor if you have liver or kidney disease or an eating disorder.

How do I take it?

Take this medication exactly as your provider prescribes. It is fine to take the medication with or without food. Do not crush or chew the Wellbutrin SR or XL forms of the medicine. Do not stop taking bupropion without your provider's approval.

What are the possible side effects?

Most times, bupropion gives people more energy and can cause sleep disturbances. It has also been linked with nausea, vomiting, constipation, nervousness, dry mouth, dizziness, or tremor. You can expect many of these symptoms to go away as your body gets used to the medicine. Rare, yet serious, symptoms that may be linked with bupropion include: seizures, mania, and suicidal thoughts.

When will it start working?

You may start to notice subtle improvement in your symptoms in 2 to 4 weeks, although complete impact of the drug may not be felt for 4 to 8 weeks.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

You should take it as soon as you remember unless it is almost time for the next scheduled dose. In that case, skip the missed dose and take the next one as directed. Do not take double doses.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC Clinic staff are also available to help at any time.

Outpatient Psychiatry
Clinic:
206-598-7792

After hours or on the weekend, call the UWMC Psychiatry Resident on-call:
206-598-6190

When should I call my provider?

Call your provider, get emergency medical care, or call 911 if:

- You are feeling suicidal.
- You are having an allergic reaction to your medication (hives, itching, rash, trouble breathing, tightness in chest, or swelling of your lips, tongue, or throat).
- You have had a seizure.
- You are having serious side effects to your medication.

Where can I learn more about bupropion?

- www.wellbutrin-XL.com
- Ask your pharmacist or provider.

References: *Micromedex* and *Handbook of Psychiatric Drug Therapy*, 4th Edition by Arana and Rosenbaum.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
MEDICAL CENTER
UW Medicine

Outpatient Psychiatry

Box 354394

4225 Roosevelt Way N.E., Suite 306
Seattle, WA 98105-6099
206-598-7792