

What is most important to remember?

- It may take a few weeks for you to see the benefits of taking this medicine
- Do not suddenly stop taking bupropion unless directed to do so by your doctor
- Seek help from a doctor or pharmacist if you have thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself
- Do not start any new medications, over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies without talking to your doctor
- Tell all doctors, dentists, and pharmacists that you are using bupropion
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison control center or get medical care right away

If you have questions:

Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist for more information about bupropion (Aplenzin®, Wellbutrin®, Wellbutrin SR®, Wellbutrin XL®).

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MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

Strong Internal Medicine



**Bupropion (Aplenzin®,
Wellbutrin®, Wellbutrin SR®,
Wellbutrin XL®):
Important Patient Information**



MEDICINE of THE HIGHEST ORDER

What does bupropion do?

- It is in a class of medications called antidepressants. It works by increasing certain types of activity in the brain
- It is used to treat depression (low mood) seasonal affective disorder, and to help people quit smoking
- It may be given to you for other reasons. Talk with your doctor

How should bupropion be used?

- Use this medicine as directed by your doctor
- To gain the most benefit, do not miss doses
- Take this medicine at the same time each day
- Take with or without food. If it causes upset stomach, take with food
- If you are not able to sleep, do not take this medicine too close to bedtime

Who should know I am taking bupropion?

- Keep a list of all your medicines (prescription, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) and give it to your healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, or physician assistant)

What side effects could occur with bupropion?

- Dizziness, feeling sleepy, headache
- Shakiness, feeling nervous and excitable, not able to sleep
- Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, dry mouth
- Constipation (hard stools) or diarrhea (loose stools)
- Sweating a lot

What should I do if I forget to take a dose of bupropion?

- Take your dose as soon as you think about it
- If it almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal dose time
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses

Are there any interactions with other drugs that I need to worry about?

- There are many drug interactions that may increase your risk of side effects
- Do not start new prescription, over-the-counter medicines, or herbal and dietary supplements without telling your doctor

What are some things that I need to be aware of when taking bupropion?

- Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to bupropion, any other medicines, foods, or substances
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had seizures or an eating disorder (anorexia or bulimia)
- Bupropion may raise your chance of a seizure. The chance may be higher in people who have certain health problems, use certain other medicines/substances, or drink a lot of alcohol. Talk to your doctor to see if you have a greater chance of seizure while taking this medicine
- Tell your doctor if you have had a heart attack; head injury; a tumor in your brain or spine; high blood pressure; diabetes; liver, kidney or heart disease
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to get pregnant, or are breastfeeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this medication
- It may take a few weeks for you to see the benefits of taking this medicine. Do not suddenly stop taking bupropion unless directed to do so by your doctor
- Do not take bupropion if you have taken other drugs for depression such as MOAIs (phenelzine, tranylcypromine) or drugs for Parkinson's disease (selegiline or rasagiline) in the last 14 days. Taking those drugs with bupropion can cause dangerous high blood pressure. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist
- Do not take more than one product containing bupropion at a time. You could receive too much medication and experience side effects
- Talk with your doctor about the safe use of alcoholic beverages while you are taking bupropion. Alcohol can make the side effects from bupropion worse
- Bupropion can cause an increase in your blood pressure. Your doctor may check your blood pressure before starting treatment and regularly while you are taking this medicine
- If you are 65 or older, use this medicine with care. You may have more side effects
- Store in a cool, dry place out of the reach of children and pets

If you have any of the following side effects, call your doctor or visit the emergency room immediately:

- If you are planning to hurt yourself
- Change in thinking clearly and with logic
- Hallucinations
- Restlessness
- Very bad headache
- Very nervous and excitable
- Chest pain or pressure
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal
- Change in eyesight
- Seizures or convulsion
- Very bad muscle or joint pain
- Signs of an allergic reaction: rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat