
BUPROPION (Wellbutrin) Fact Sheet for Patients

Generic Name: Bupropion (byoo-PRO-pee-on)

Brand Names: Forfivo, Wellbutrin, Wellbutrin SR, Wellbutrin XL, Zyban

What Does It Treat?

Bupropion is used to treat major depressive disorder and seasonal affective disorder, and can help people stop smoking (as Zyban) as part of a comprehensive treatment program.

How Does It Work?

Bupropion is an antidepressant that belongs to the class of drugs known as norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitors (NDRIs). It works by increasing the levels of certain chemicals in your brain that help elevate your mood.

How Do I Take It?

Bupropion is available as immediate-release tablets (Wellbutrin), sustained-release tablets (Wellbutrin SR, Zyban), and extended-release tablets (Forfivo, Wellbutrin XL).

What is the Dose?

The typical dosage for bupropion, used for depression and smoking cessation, ranges from 150-300 mg per day. The dosing depends on both the condition being treated and the product being used and should be determined by your health care provider.

How Long Will I Take It?

The duration of your treatment with bupropion can vary. It will depend on your response to the medication and your specific health condition. However, it's common to take antidepressants for several months or more. Your health care provider will give you a clear plan.

What If I Miss a Dose?

If you forget to take a dose of bupropion, take it as soon as you remember. But if it's nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed one. Never take two doses at the same time to make up for a missed one.

What Are Possible Side Effects?

- Most common: Agitation, dry mouth, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, ringing in the ears, headache, decreased appetite, weight loss, trouble sleeping (insomnia).
- Serious but rare: Seizures.

What Else Should I Know?

- Bupropion may interact with other medications, so inform your health care provider of all the medications you are taking.
- You should not use bupropion if you have a seizure disorder or an eating disorder, or if you have suddenly stopped using alcohol or sedatives.
- Before starting bupropion, tell your health care provider if you have any history of liver problems, kidney problems, or bipolar disorder, or if you drink a lot of alcohol.

Remember, this fact sheet provides general information about this medication. For more specific guidance and instructions, consult your health care provider.