

Wellbutrin (Bupropion) basics

Improves mood. Wellbutrin (Bupropion) is good for treating depression and has fewer sexual side effects than other antidepressants, but you need to be okay with avoiding alcohol.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.



* Placebo is a sugar pill with no medicinal benefit.

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Wellbutrin (Bupropion) makes you energized, so take it in the morning to avoid difficulty sleeping later that night.
- Takes about 8 to 12 weeks to see the medication's full effects on your mood.
- There are no sexual side effects from this medication.
- Stop taking it slowly to avoid getting withdrawal symptoms.
- Tell your doctor if you notice sudden mood changes or unusual thoughts.
- The extended-release tablet shell can show up unchanged in your stool, but don't worry since the medication was still absorbed by your body.

Risks and warnings

The FDA has identified these as possible serious or life-threatening risks with this medication. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Suicidal thoughts or behavior

Wellbutrin (Bupropion) may increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior. Watch for worsening depression or any unusual changes in mood or behavior, especially during the first few months of treatment or when the dose changes. Report anything concerning to a doctor immediately.

Wellbutrin (Bupropion) is not approved for use in children younger than age 18.

Psychiatric effects for smoking cessation

Wellbutrin is not approved for smoking cessation, but bupropion under the name Zyban is approved for this use. Some people taking it for smoking cessation have reported serious psychiatric effects, such as depression and, rarely, suicidal thoughts or behavior. These effects may be worse if you're withdrawing from nicotine because depression can be symptom of nicotine withdrawal. Watch for any sudden changes in mood, thinking, or behavior, and report anything concerning to a doctor immediately.

Seizures

Wellbutrin (Bupropion) can lower the brain's threshold for seizures in people with certain risk factors. Use with caution.