

Potential side effects associated with bupropion extended-release (Wellbutrin XL®)

Below is the incidence of adverse events in patients treated with bupropion extended-release at dose 300 mg/day.

How did we decide what is or is not a "side effect" of the medication?

Adverse (undesirable) events that occurred during treatment with bupropion extended-release in placebo-controlled clinical trials are considered here to be side effects if they occurred at least twice as often as on placebo.

When do we call a side effect "common"?

A side effect is considered here to be "common" if the difference between its incidence with bupropion extended-release versus placebo was at least 5%.

What "other" or "less common" side effects will we consider on this page?

Other side effects included on this page are those for which the difference between its incidence with bupropion extended-release versus on placebo was at least 1%.

Note: Side effects for which the difference between the two treatment groups was less than 1% are not discussed on this page.

Note: Symptoms reported by patients may be classified by the researchers into categories that could be considered to overlap, e.g., dizziness and postural hypotension.

Common side effects*	Drug-placebo difference	Percentage of major depressive disorder patients on bupropion SR who reported it	Percentage of patients on placebo who reported it
Dry mouth	10%	17%	7%
Tremor	5%	6%	1%
Other side effects**			
Sweating	4%	6%	2%
ringing in the ears	4%	6%	2%
Rash	4%	5%	1%

Loss of appetite	3%	5%	2%
Vomiting	2%	4%	2%
Chest pain	2%	3%	1%
Hives (a type of skin rash, usually due to allergy)	2%	2%	0%
Altered taste	>1%	2%	<1%
Central nervous system stimulation	1%	2%	1%
Twitch	1%	1%	0%

Important! The information in this handout is for general educational purposes only and is only a partial list of the potential side effects of this medication. If you are a patient, please consult the medical professional who prescribed this medication for further information about the potential side effects of this medication. For additional important information, including about potentially serious side effects of this medication, please make sure to review the page at the link below: <https://medlineplus.gov/druginfo/meds/a695033.html>