

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

### Bupropion HCl Sandoz retard 300 mg, tabletten met gereguleerde afgifte

bupropion hydrochloride

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### What is in this leaflet

1. What [nationally completed name] is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take [nationally completed name]
3. How to take [nationally completed name]
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store [nationally completed name]
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### 1. What [nationally completed name] is and what it is used for

[Nationally completed name] is used to treat **depression**. It interacts with chemicals in the brain called noradrenaline and dopamine, which are linked to depression.

#### 2. What you need to know before you take [nationally completed name]

**Do not take [nationally completed name]:**

if you are/have:

- **allergic** to bupropion or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- **taking** any other medicines which contain **bupropion**
- **epilepsy** or a history of fits
- a **brain tumour**
- undergoing abrupt **withdrawal from alcohol or** any medicines known to be associated with a risk of withdrawal, particularly
  - **medicines which calm**, induce sleep or relax muscles with active substance names ending with "azepam"

- or similar sedatives
- a **severe long-lasting liver disease** marked by degeneration and thickening of liver tissue
- an eating disorder or have had one, such as **bulimia or anorexia nervosa**
- **taking** or have been taking other medicines to treat depression called **monoamine oxidase inhibitors**  
A gap of at least 14 days is required following discontinuation of certain monoamine oxidase inhibitors (called irreversible monoamine oxidase inhibitors) and taking [nationally completed name]. For some other monoamine oxidase inhibitors (which are called reversible monoamine oxidase inhibitors), a gap of 24 hours could be sufficient. Ask your doctor for advice.

## Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before taking [nationally completed name] if you are/have:

- regularly drinking a lot of alcohol  
Please consider the previous section: “Do not take [nationally completed name]” if you are undergoing abrupt withdrawal from alcohol.
- diabetes for which you use insulin or tablets
- a history of a head injury
- extreme mood swings or mental problems  
Prior to treatment, patients should be checked for risk of disorders with episodes of elevated or agitated mood.
- If you are taking other medicines for depression, the use of these medicines together with [nationally completed name] can lead to serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition (see “Other medicines and [nationally completed name]” in this section)
- reduced kidney or mild to moderate reduced liver function  
Patients with reduced liver or kidney function will be monitored by the doctor for possible side effects. Do not use [nationally completed name] if you have the severe liver disease listed in the sixth bullet point under “Do not take [nationally completed name]”.
- require a urine test  
Tell your doctor that you are taking [nationally completed name] as it may interfere with some urine tests to detect other medicines.
- Brugada syndrome  
If you have a condition called Brugada syndrome (a rare hereditary syndrome that affects the heart rhythm) or if cardiac arrest or sudden death occurred in your family.

[Nationally completed name] has been shown to cause **fits**. This side effect is more likely in people:

- affected by a condition listed in the first three bullet points under “Warnings and precautions” in section 2 or
- taking a medicine listed in the second to twelfth bullet point under “Other medicines and [nationally completed name]” in section 2

All patients should be assessed for existing risk factors. **Stop taking [nationally completed name] and contact your doctor** if fits occur during treatment.

**Thoughts of harming** or killing yourself are associated with depression. These may be increased when starting treatment as medicines to treat depression take time to work. This can usually be about two weeks but sometimes longer.

You are more likely to have such thoughts if you:

- have previously had these thoughts

- are a young adult  
Studies show an increased risk of suicidal behavior in adults aged under 25 years with mental problems and using medicines to treat depression.

**Contact your doctor or go to a hospital immediately**, if you have thoughts of harming or killing yourself. Tell a relative or close friend that you are depressed, and ask them to read this leaflet. Ask them to tell you if they think your depression is getting worse or changes in your behavior occur.

### Children under 18 years

[Nationally completed name] is not recommended for this age group. An increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviour exists in children using medicines to treat depression.

### Other medicines and [nationally completed name]

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.**

The following medicines can affect or be affected by [nationally completed name], but it is not a complete list. Tell your doctor if you take any of these medicines so that your treatment can be altered if necessary:

- certain medicines to treat depression or Parkinson's disease called **monoamine oxidase inhibitors**  
Consider the last bullet point under "**Do not take [nationally completed name]**" in section 2.
- **medicines to treat depression**, such as amitriptyline, fluoxetine, paroxetine, dosulepin, desipramine, imipramine, citalopram, escitalopram, venlafaxine or medicines to treat **mental diseases**, such as clozapine, risperidone, thioridazine, olanzapine [nationally completed name] may interact with some medicines used for treatment of depression and you may experience mental status changes (e.g. agitation, hallucinations, coma), and other effects, such as body temperature above 38°C, increase in heart rate, unstable blood pressure, and exaggeration of reflexes, muscular rigidity, lack of coordination and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea).
- **theophylline**: a medicine to treat asthma and other breathing diseases
- **tramadol**: a medicine to treat pain
- **sedatives**  
Consider the fifth bullet point under "**Do not take [nationally completed name]**" in section 2 if you intend to stop taking sedatives.
- **medicines to prevent and treat malaria**, such as mefloquine, chloroquine
- **stimulants** or other medicines to control your weight or appetite
- **steroids**, administered by mouth or injection
- **medicines to treat bacterial infection** with active substance names ending in "oxacin"
- **anti-histamines** that can cause sleepiness: used to treat allergies, sleep disturbances or colds; or prevent and treat nausea and vomiting
- **medicines to treat diabetes**
- **levodopa, amandatine**: medicines to treat Parkinson's disease
- **orphenadrine**: a medicine to treat painful muscle tension
- **carbamazepine, phenytoin, valproate**: medicines to treat epilepsy and certain pain conditions
- certain medicines to treat cancer, such as **cyclophosphamide, ifosfamide**
- **ticlopidine, clopidogrel**: medicines to inhibit blood clotting
- **medicines to treat high blood pressure**, heart or other diseases, with active substance names ending with "lol", such as metoprolol

- **propafenone, flecainide**: medicines to treat heart rhythm disorders
- **nicotine** patches: medicines to stop smoking
- **ritonavir, efavirenz**: medicines to treat HIV infection
- **tamoxifen**: a medicine to treat breast cancer  
Tell your doctor if you take tamoxifen as it may be necessary to change to another treatment for depression.
- **digoxin**, a medicine for your heart  
Tell your doctor if you take digoxin as it may be necessary to adjust its dose
- **metamizole**, a medicine for fever and severe acute and chronic pain

### **[Nationally completed name] with alcohol**

Drinking alcohol is **not recommended** while taking [nationally completed name]. But if you drink a lot now, do not stop suddenly as it may put you at risk of having a fit.

Talk to the doctor about drinking and withdrawal from alcohol before you take [nationally completed name].

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

**Do not take [nationally completed name]** if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, **unless your doctor recommends it**. Some clinical studies have reported an increase in the risk of birth defects, particularly heart defects, in babies whose mothers were taking [nationally completed name]. It is not known if these are due to the use of [nationally completed name].

The ingredients of [nationally completed name] can pass into breast milk. If you are breast-feeding, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking [nationally completed name].

### **Driving and using machines**

**Do not drive or operate** any tools or machines as [nationally completed name] makes you dizzy or light-headed.

### **[Nationally completed name] contains sodium**

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per modified-release tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How to take [nationally completed name]**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

### **The recommended dose is**

One 150 mg tablet once daily

**Your doctor may increase your dose to 300 mg once daily** if your depression does not improve after several weeks.

### Patients with reduced liver or kidney function

The recommended dose is one 150 mg tablet once daily if you have reduced kidney or mild to moderate reduced liver function.

Do not use [nationally completed name] if you have the severe liver disease listed in the sixth bullet point under “Do not take [nationally completed name]” in section 2.

### Method of use

Take your tablets whole, in the morning with a glass of water. The tablets can be taken with or without food.

The tablet is covered by a shell that slowly releases the active substance inside your body. You may notice something in your stool that looks like a tablet. This is the empty shell passing from your body.

**You must not chew, crush or split the tablets** as you could overdose, because the medicine will release too quickly. This increases the possibility of side effects, including fits.



### Duration of use

Your doctor decides how long you should take [nationally completed name].

It may take a while before you start feeling better and have the full effect, sometimes weeks or months. Your doctor may advise you to keep taking [nationally completed name] when you start feeling better, to stop depression returning.

### If you take more [nationally completed name] than you should

Contact your doctor immediately or your nearest hospital if an overdose occurs, as this may increase the risk of fits.

### If you forget to take [nationally completed name]

If you miss a dose, wait and take your next tablet at the usual time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

### If you stop taking [nationally completed name]

Do not stop [nationally completed name] use or reduce the dose without your doctor's permission.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

## 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

### Serious side effects

Tell your doctor straight away if you notice any of the following serious side effects.

### **Fits or seizures**

Approximately 1 in every 1000 people taking [nationally completed name] is at risk of a fit (a seizure or convulsion). The chance of this happening is higher if you take too much, if you take certain medicines, or if you are at higher than usual risk of fits. If you are worried, talk to your doctor.

**If you have a fit**, tell your doctor when you have recovered. **Don't take any more tablets.**

### **Allergic reactions**

Some people may get allergic reactions to bupropion. These include

- Red skin or rash (like nettle rash), blisters or itchy lumps (hives) on the skin.  
Some skin rashes may need hospital treatment, especially if you also have a sore mouth or sore eyes.
- Unusual wheezing or difficulty in breathing
- Swollen eyelids, lips or tongue
- Pains in muscles or joints
- Collapse or blackout.

**If you have any signs of an allergic reaction** contact a doctor immediately. **Don't take any more tablets.**

**Allergic reactions can last a long time.** If your doctor prescribes something to help with allergic symptoms, make sure you finish the course.

### **Lupus skin rash or worsening of lupus symptoms**

Not known - frequency cannot be estimated from the available data in people taking [Nationally completed name].

Lupus is an immune system disorder affecting the skin and other organs. If you experience lupus flares, skin rash or lesions (particularly on sun-exposed areas) while taking [Nationally completed name], contact your doctor straight away, as it might be necessary to stop the treatment.

### **Other side effects**

**Very common side effects:** these may affect more than one in 10 people

- Difficulty in sleeping. Make sure you take [nationally completed name] in the morning.
- Headache
- Dry mouth
- Feeling sick, vomiting

**Common side effects:** these may affect up to one in 10 people

- Fever, dizziness, itching, sweating and skin rash (sometimes due to an allergic reaction)
- Shakiness, tremor, weakness, tiredness, chest pain
- Feeling anxious or agitated
- Tummy pain or other upsets (constipation), changes in the taste of food, loss of appetite (anorexia)

- Increase in blood pressure sometimes severe, flushing
- Ringing in the ears, visual disturbances.

**Uncommon side effects:** may affect up to one in 100 people

- Feeling depressed (see also section 2 'Take special care with [nationally completed name]', under 'Thoughts of suicide and worsening of your depression')
- Feeling confused
- Difficulty concentrating
- Raised heart rate
- Weight loss

**Rare side effects:** may affect up to one in 1,000 people

- Seizures

**Very rare side effects:** may affect up to one in 10,000 people

- Palpitations, fainting
- Twitching, muscle stiffness, uncontrolled movements, problems with walking or coordination
- Feeling restless, irritable, hostile, aggressive, strange dreams, tingling or numbness, loss of memory
- Yellowing of skin or the whites of your eyes (*jaundice*) which may be caused by raised liver enzymes, hepatitis
- Severe allergic reactions; rash together with joint and muscle pains
- Changes in blood sugar levels
- Urinating more or less than usual
- Severe skin rashes that may affect the mouth and other parts of the body and can be life threatening
- Worsening of psoriasis (thickened patches of red skin)
- feeling unreal or strange (*depersonalisation*); seeing or hearing things that are not there (*hallucinations*); sensing or believing things that are not true (*delusions*); severe suspiciousness (*paranoia*).

**Not known side effects:** frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- blood sodium decreased (hyponatraemia)
- thoughts of harming or killing themselves while taking [nationally completed name] or soon after stopping treatment (see section 2, 'What you need to know before you take [nationally completed name]'). If you have these thoughts, **contact your doctor or go to a hospital straight away**.
- loss of contact with reality and unable to think or judge clearly (psychosis); other symptoms may include hallucinations and/or delusions.
- reduced numbers of red blood cells (anaemia), reduced numbers of white blood cells (leucopenia) and reduced numbers of platelets (thrombocytopenia).
- Mental status changes (e.g. agitation, hallucinations, coma), and other effects, such as body temperature above 38°C, increase in heart rate, unstable blood pressure, and exaggeration of reflexes, muscular rigidity, lack of coordination and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g. nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea), while taking [nationally completed name] together with medicines used for treatment of depression (such as paroxetine, citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine and venlafaxine).

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

You can also report side effects directly via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## 5. How to store [\[nationally completed name\]](#)

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25°C.

Store in the original pack in order to protect from moisture and light.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater [or household waste](#). Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## 6. Contents of the pack and other information

### What [\[nationally completed name\]](#) contains

- The active substance is bupropion hydrochloride. Each modified-release tablet contains 150 mg of bupropion hydrochloride.
- The other ingredients are povidone, hydrochloric acid, sodium stearyl fumarate, ethylcellulose, hydroxy propylcellulose, methacrylic acid-ethyl acrylate copolymer (1:1) Type A, silica colloidal anhydrous, macrogol 1500, triethyl citrate, hypromellose, macrogol 400, macrogol 8000.

### What [\[nationally completed name\]](#) looks like and contents of the pack

White to pale yellow, round tablets, rounded on the upper and lower side, plain on both sides.

The modified-release tablets are packed in white light-tight plastic bottles closed with a child-resistant screw cap. The bottle contains two pillows which should not be swallowed, one containing silica gel granules and activated carbon and one containing silica gel granules and oxygen absorber.

Pack sizes: 10, 30, 90 tablets

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### Houder van de vergunning voor het in de handel brengen en fabrikant

Vergunninghouder:  
Sandoz B.V., Hospitaaldreef 29, 1315 RC Almere, Nederland

Fabrikant:



Salutas Pharma GmbH  
Otto-von-Guericke-Allee 1  
39179 Barleben  
Duitsland

**In het register ingeschreven onder: RVG 128681**

**Dit medicijn is geregistreerd in lidstaten van de Europese Economische Ruimte onder de volgende namen:**

Nederland: Bupropion HCl Sandoz retard 300 mg, tabletten met gereguleerde afgifte  
Oostenrijk: Bupropion 1A Pharma 300 mg - Tabletten mit veränderter Wirkstofffreisetzung

**Deze bijsluiter is voor het laatst goedgekeurd in februari 2024.**