

Contrave® (naltrexone/bupropion) Patient Information

Who Is Contrave For?

Contrave is a medication for chronic weight management. It is for people with overweight and weight-related complications or obesity. It is meant to be used together with a lifestyle therapy regimen involving a reduced calorie diet and increased physical activity.

How Does Contrave Work?

Contrave works in the brain as an appetite suppressant.

Who Should Not Take Contrave?

- Women who are pregnant, nursing, or planning to become pregnant
- People who have uncontrolled high blood pressure
- People who have or have had seizures
- People with a history of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa or bulimia
- People who have glaucoma or are at risk for glaucoma
- People who used to drink a lot of alcohol and abruptly stop drinking
- People who use other medications containing bupropion, such as Wellbutrin or Aplenzin
- People who are taking opioid pain relievers or are in opioid withdrawal, or use medicines to help stop taking opioids such as methadone or buprenorphine
- People who are taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) now or have taken one within the past 14 days

How Is Contrave Dosed?

The usual dose is 2 tablets twice a day, but the medication is slowly increased as follows:

	Morning Dose	Evening Dose
Week 1	1 tablet	None
Week 2	1 tablet	1 tablet
Week 3	2 tablets	1 tablets
Week 4 and afterward	2 tablets	2 tablets

Do not take Contrave with a high fat meal.

Swallow Contrave tablets whole. Do not cut, chew, or crush Contrave tablets.

If you miss a dose of Contrave, wait until your next regular time to take it. Do not take more than 1 dose of Contrave at a time.



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Is Contrave a Controlled Substance?

No, Contrave is not a controlled substance.

Which Medications Might Not Be Safe to Use with Contrave?

Contrave can affect how other medicines work in your body, and other medicines can affect how Contrave works. Tell your doctor about all the medicines and supplements you take, especially:

- Carbamazepine, phenobarbital, or phenytoin—usually given to treat seizures
- Efavirenz, lopinavir, or ritonavir—used to treat HIV infection
- Antidepressants
- Pain medications

What Are the Most Common Side Effects of Contrave?

- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Changes in the way foods taste or loss of taste
- Trouble sleeping
- Constipation or diarrhea
- Headache
- Dry mouth

What Are the Possible Serious Side Effects of Contrave?

Suicidal Thoughts or Actions

One of the ingredients in Contrave is bupropion, which has caused some people to have suicidal thoughts or actions or unusual changes in behavior, whether or not they are taking medicines used to treat depression.

If you already have depression or another mental illness, taking bupropion may cause your condition to get worse, especially within the first few months of treatment. Let your doctor know if you experience an increase in symptoms of depression, anxiety, irritability, suicidal thoughts, agitation, anger, or other unusual changes in behavior or mood.

Seizures

There is a risk of having a seizure when you take Contrave. The risk of seizure is higher in people who take higher doses of Contrave, have certain medical conditions, or take Contrave with certain other medicines. If you have a seizure while taking Contrave, stop taking Contrave and call your doctor right away. Do not take Contrave again if you have a seizure.



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Risk of Opioid Overdose

One of the ingredients in Contrave (naltrexone) can increase your chance of having an opioid overdose if you take opioid medicines while taking Contrave. Opioids are common pain medications. **Do not use any opioid medications while taking Contrave.** Using opioids in the 7 to 10 days before you start taking Contrave may cause you to suddenly have symptoms of opioid withdrawal when you take it. Tell your doctor if you have used these medications in the past 10 days. **Inform your doctor that you are taking Contrave before any medical procedure or surgery.**

Severe Allergic Reactions

Some people have had a severe allergic reaction to bupropion, one of the ingredients in Contrave. Stop taking Contrave and call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you have signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction such as rash, itching, swelling of the lips or tongue, fever, chest pain, or trouble breathing.

Increases in Blood Pressure or Heart Rate

Some people may get high blood pressure or have a higher heart rate when taking Contrave. Your doctor should check your blood pressure and heart rate before you start taking Contrave and while you take it.

Liver Damage or Hepatitis

One of the ingredients in Contrave—naltrexone—can cause liver damage or hepatitis. Stop taking Contrave and tell your doctor if you have any signs or symptoms of liver problems such as stomach pain, dark urine, yellow eyes (jaundice), or extreme fatigue.

Manic Episodes

One of the ingredients in Contrave—bupropion—can cause some people who were manic or depressed in the past, or who have bipolar disease, to become manic or depressed again.

Vision Problems (Angle-Closure Glaucoma)

One of the ingredients in Contrave—bupropion—can cause some people to have problems with their vision (angle-closure glaucoma). Signs and symptoms of angle-closure glaucoma may include eye pain, vision changes, or swelling or redness in or around the eye. Ask your eye doctor if you are at risk for angle-closure glaucoma and do not use Contrave if you are at risk.



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Low Blood Sugar (Hypoglycemia)

Weight loss can cause low blood sugar in people with type 2 diabetes who also take medicines used to treat type 2 diabetes (such as insulin or sulfonylureas). You should check your blood sugar before you start taking Contrave and while you take Contrave.

This is not intended to be a complete list. For additional information please see the manufacturer's website: <https://www.contrave.com>.

Reference

Contrave (naltrexone/bupropion) prescribing information. La Jolla, CA: Orexigen Therapeutics, Inc.; 2016.

