

Dextromethorphan-Bupropion

Auvelity • two medicines in one prescription tablet

Scheduled treatment for adult depression or Alzheimer's-related agitation. Each use has its own starting schedule.

From Jeffrey Panko, PMHNP-BC's education collection ·

Draft for review · Clinical content has not been revalidated for this website.

SWALLOW TABLETS WHOLE

TWICE-DAILY DOSES: AT LEAST 8 HOURS APART

The diagram's author-requested alpha1D action still awaits functional verification; no benefit is inferred.

What it is used for

For adult major depression or Alzheimer's-related agitation. Not an as-needed calming medicine, dementia cure or treatment for children.

Uses of either ingredient alone, or dextromethorphan-quinidine, do not automatically apply to Auvelity.

How it works

Dextromethorphan acts at NMDA and sigma-1 sites. Bupropion affects norepinephrine and dopamine and slows dextromethorphan breakdown.

The full therapeutic mechanism is uncertain. Cough medicine plus separate bupropion is not an equivalent.

What to expect over time

STARTING

Follow your indication-specific plan. Kidney function, interactions or drug processing may require once-daily treatment.

EARLY WEEKS

Dizziness may precede benefit. Track mood, sleep and function; report worsening without waiting for the next visit.

AT REVIEW

For agitation, track frequency, severity and safety with a caregiver. Sleepiness is not the same as improvement.

Taking your medication

Take only the prescribed dose. Once-daily doses are taken in the morning. Never exceed 2 tablets in 24 hours; some people must stay at one.

Take with or without food; swallow whole. Do not crush, chew or split. If a dose is missed, skip it and take the next at its usual time. Never double.

Do not drive until effects are clear. Limit or avoid alcohol, but get medical help before stopping heavy alcohol or sedative use abruptly.

When to get help

Call 911: seizure, collapse, severe breathing trouble or immediate self-harm danger. After a seizure, stop Auvelity and never restart it.

Urgent care: fever with confusion, shaking or stiffness; severe headache or chest pain; eye pain/vision changes; swelling or blistering rash.

Call promptly: suicidal thoughts, worse mood, unusually high energy with little sleep, hallucinations, marked dizziness, confusion or unsteadiness.

Early side effects

Dizziness, sleepiness, dry mouth, sweating, headache or bowel upset can occur. Food may ease nausea. Prevent falls and keep up dental care.

Other effects to discuss

Blood pressure, sleep, sexual function or appetite can change. Report persistent or disruptive effects; do not change treatment on your own.

What to keep track of

Check blood pressure before and during treatment; review mood, falls and medicines. Kidney or sodium tests may be needed; routine Auvelity levels are not. Tell testing staff: unexpected amphetamine screens need a specific confirmatory test.

Before you start

Discuss seizures, any history of anorexia or bulimia, bipolar disorder, suicide risk, head injury, glaucoma, high blood pressure, heart disease, low sodium, kidney/liver problems, diabetes, falls and all medicines. Seizure disorder, current or past anorexia/bulimia, abrupt alcohol/sedative withdrawal and ingredient allergy can rule out this treatment. Check pregnancy plans and breastfeeding before starting.

Medicines & interactions

MAOIs and switching

Allow at least 14 days between Auvelity and an MAOI in either direction. Linezolid and IV methylene blue also need coordinated care; never combine them on your own.

Duplicate or serotonin medicines

Check cough products containing dextromethorphan, other bupropion, antidepressants, tramadol, triptans and supplements. Combining certain medicines can cause seizures or serotonin toxicity.

Metabolism and other medicines

Some medicines require once-daily Auvelity or an alternative. It can raise levels of some drugs and reduce activation of others. Review digoxin, levodopa, amantadine and seizure-risk medicines.

Alcohol, nicotine and stimulants

Discuss alcohol or sedative withdrawal safely. Review nicotine medicines, stimulants, appetite products and recreational drugs; blood pressure or seizure risk may increase.

Everyday tips

Use reminders and a written schedule. Check the tablet strength and instructions whenever a prescription changes.

Track mood, sleep and function. Report new suicidal thoughts or unusual behavior, especially after a dose change.

For agitation, assess pain, infection, medicines and environmental triggers with the care team; medication is only part of care.

Keep follow-ups and refill early. Review every new medicine with the pharmacist before starting or stopping it.

Your questions, answered

Can I stop it or split it to taper?

Agree on an individual stopping plan. There is no standard labeled taper, and tablets must not be split. A seizure is different: stop and never restart; get emergency help.

What about pregnancy?

Auvelity is not recommended. Contact your prescriber right away if pregnant or possibly pregnant: the label directs stopping it and arranging alternative treatment. Plan alternatives before pregnancy.

Can I breastfeed?

Do not breastfeed during treatment or for 5 days after the final dose. Discuss a feeding and treatment plan with your care team.

What if I take too much?

Call Poison Help at 1-800-222-1222 or go to an emergency department immediately, even if you feel well. Call 911 for a seizure, collapse or breathing trouble.

Storage & safety

Keep in its original bottle at room temperature, secured away from children and pets. Never share. Ask a pharmacy about take-back disposal.

About this information

For general information only; not a substitute for individualized medical advice. This sheet does not cover every risk or interaction. Ask your prescriber or pharmacist before changing how you take this medication.

Sources

1. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/drugInfo.cfm?setid=dcefd7c-9a68-278e-e053-2995a90aec79>
 2. <https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/medguide.cfm?setid=dcefd7c-9a68-278e-e053-2995a90aec79>
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Educational inclusion does not mean this medication or its indications are treated at this practice. Review the guide for your exact product with your prescriber or pharmacist.

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