



## BIPOLAR DISORDERS Factsheet

November 2021

### What is bupropion?

Even though antidepressants are effective for treating depression, their use in people with bipolar disorder can increase the risk of phase shifting from depression to mania. Most antidepressants increase serotonin or noradrenaline; in contrast, bupropion has unique pharmacokinetics as a norepinephrine-dopamine reuptake inhibitor. Therefore, it has been suggested that bupropion may have benefits for depression with less risk of phase shifting than other antidepressants.

### What is the evidence for bupropion as treatment for bipolar disorder?

Moderate to low quality evidence suggests a large effect of greater improvement in depression scores with bupropion than with placebo. There were no differences between bupropion and other antidepressants for depression or phase-shifting.

For more information see the technical table



*NeuRA (Neuroscience Research Australia) is one of the largest independent medical and clinical research institutes in Australia and an international leader in neurological research.*

*Diseases of the brain and nervous system pose the greatest health, economic and social burden of any disease group because they are chronic, debilitating and have no known cures.*

*Medical research is the cornerstone of efforts to advance the health and wellbeing of families and the community. Our dedicated scientists are focussed on transforming their research into significant and practical benefits for all patients.*

*While we hope you find this information useful, it is always important to discuss any questions about bipolar disorder or its treatment with your doctor or other health care provider.*

### HOW YOUR SUPPORT HELPS

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