



IMPORTANT MEDICINE SAFETY INFORMATION

BUPROPION CONTAINING MEDICINES - RISK OF BRUGADA SYNDROME

22 May 2023

Dear Healthcare Professional,

The following pharmaceutical companies, Adcock Ingram Limited, Teva Pharmaceuticals, Acino Pharma and Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals, in collaboration with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA), would like to draw your attention to the following important safety information associated with bupropion-containing medicines registered in South Africa.

The professional information (PI) and patient information leaflet (PIL) will be updated accordingly.

Background on safety concern

- The safety concern is regarding the risk of Brugada syndrome associated with the use of bupropion-containing medicines. This safety issue was based on the European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) Assessment Report for bupropion.
- In view of available data on Brugada syndrome from spontaneous reports, including two cases with a positive de-challenge and plausible time to onset and plausible mechanism of action described in literature, PRAC considered bupropion may unmask Brugada syndrome.
- Brugada syndrome is generally an inherited, rare, arrhythmic disorder characterized by cardiac conduction abnormalities (ST segment abnormalities in leads V1-V3 on Electrocardiogram ECG and a high risk for ventricular arrhythmias) that can result in sudden death. ⁱ

Advice to Healthcare professionals

- Symptoms of Brugada syndrome range from absence of any symptoms to sudden cardiac death that typically occurs during sleep, possibly secondary to increased vagal tone. Brugada

syndrome is associated with ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation, syncope, palpitations and dizziness.

- Although Brugada syndrome is uncommon, its association with sudden cardiac death, due to ventricular fibrillation, requires that healthcare professionals be made aware of this side effect, its ECG presentation and modulating factors that may underlie a Brugada pattern, and be able to recognize, identify and promptly take corrective measures.
- Physicians need to be cautious when treating patients with a family history of cardiac arrest or sudden death.
- The patient, family and colleagues need to be educated about the syndrome, its potential for cardiac arrest and about basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation CPR, after diagnosis.
- Healthcare professionals are urged to report any adverse drug reactions (ADRs) or product quality issues (including batch details) via Med Safety App. The App can be downloaded on a smart mobile phone through Google Play or App Store.
- Alternatively, healthcare professionals may report ADRs via the e-Reporting link available on the SAHPRA website (www.sahpra.org.za)
- Additionally, reporting can be done via the ADR reporting form accessible via the SAHPRA website and email it to adr@sahpra.org.za.

For more information on ADR reporting of products listed below, please contact the SAHPRA vigilance unit at pvqueries@sahpra.org.za, or alternatively use the contact details indicated below:

Table 1: Company Products

Company	Product name	Active ingredient	Registration Number	Contact details
Adcock Ingram Limited 1 New Road Midrand 1685	Bupropion XR 150 Adco	Bupropion	50/1.2/0967.065	Email: Adcock.Aereports@adcock.com Tel: +27 11 635 0134

Teva Pharmaceuticals (PTY) Ltd 1st Floor, Building3, Maxwell Office Park, Magwa Crescent West, Waterfall City. Midrand 1685.	Bupyra XL 150	Bupropion	54/1.2/0026	Email: Safety.South-Africa@teva.co.il Tel: +27 11 055 0200 Fax: +27 11 388 2688
	Bupyra XL 300	Bupropion	54/1.2/0533	
Acino Pharma (Pty) Ltd 106 16th Road, Midrand, 1685	Contrave	Bupropion hydrochloride 90,0 mg Naltrexone hydrochloride 8,0 mg	52/11.3/0478	Email: drugsafety_za@acino.swiss Tel: +27 11 516 1700
Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd 14 Lautre Rd, Stormill, Randburg, 1709	Budep XR 150	Bupropion HCL	48/1.2/0114	Email: Geeta.Ghela@sunpharma.com PVG Manager: Mr Pitchai Pandikumar Pitchai.Pandikumar@sunpharma.com +971 50 9217985
	Budep XR 300	Bupropion HCL	48/1.2/0115	
	Weldep XR 150	Bupropion HCL	48/1.2/0112	
	Weldep XR 300	Bupropion HCL	48/1.2/0113	

Yours faithfully,

Tammy Chetty Responsible Pharmacist Adcock Ingram Limited Signature	Salomie Keyser Responsible Pharmacist Teva Pharmaceuticals (PTY) Ltd Signature
Geeta Ghela Responsible Pharmacist Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd Signature	Shaistha Sing Responsible Pharmacist Acino Pharma (Pty) Ltd Signature

ⁱ **Reference**

Brugada R, Campuzano O, Sarquella-Brugada G, et al. Brugada Syndrome. 2005 Mar 31 [Updated 2022 Aug 25]. In: Adam MP, Mirzaa GM, Pagon RA, et al., editors. GeneReviews® [Internet]. Seattle (WA): University of Washington, Seattle; 1993-2023. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK1517/>