

BUSPIRONE

Other names: Pacific Buspirone®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

How does buspirone work?

Buspirone acts in the brain to decrease anxiety.

Why you are taking this medicine?

Buspirone is used to treat anxiety.

When to take this medicine

Buspirone is usually taken two or three times a day. Take it at the same time each day. It can be taken with or without food – but do the same thing each time.

You may need to take the medicine for one to two weeks before you begin to feel better. Do not stop taking buspirone without talking to your doctor first.

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- fast or irregular heartbeat
- chest pain
- skin rash, severe itching or hives
- blurred vision
- swelling of legs or ankles
- tingling, numbness or tremors in the hands or feet

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- dizziness or tiredness
- difficulty sleeping or bad dreams
- mood changes
- dry mouth
- headache
- gastrointestinal (stomach) upsets such as nausea and/or vomiting
- nasal congestion / blocked nose
- muscular aches and pains
- sore throat
- ringing in the ears

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Buspirone must **not** be taken with MAOIs (Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors) e.g. tranylcypromine (Parnate®) or phenelzine (Nardil®).

Other medicines can increase the blood level of buspirone causing increased side effects. For example: calcium channel blockers (diltiazem, verapamil); antifungal medicines (itraconazole, ketoconazole); and some antibiotics (erythromycin). In these cases, the dose of buspirone may need to be reduced.

Avoid taking buspirone with grapefruit juice, as grapefruit can also increase the levels in the blood and cause more side effects of buspirone.

Avoid drinking alcohol when taking this buspirone. Buspirone may increase the effects of alcohol and make you sleepy, reduce your concentration and reduce your reaction times.

Buspirone can make you sleepy or drowsy, be careful when driving a car or operating machinery.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.