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(54) Title: MULTILAYERED TABLET CONTAINING PRAVASTATIN AND ASPIRIN AND METHOD

(57) Abstract: A multilayered tablet having three or more layers is provided which is useful for cholesterol lowering and reducing the risk of a myocardial infarction, which includes a first layer containing aspirin, another layer containing pravastatin, and a middle barrier layer, which preferably contains a buffering agent, which separates the first layer containing aspirin from the other layer containing pravastatin, and prevents or minimizes interaction of aspirin with pravastatin. A method for lowering cholesterol and reducing risk of a myocardial infarction employing such composition is also provided.



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MULTILAYERED TABLET CONTAINING PRAVASTATIN
AND ASPIRIN AND METHOD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition in the form of a tablet having three or more layers which includes aspirin in one layer and pravastatin in a second layer, which layers are separated from each other by at least one middle barrier layer, in a manner to minimize interaction of aspirin with the statin, for use in lowering cholesterol and reducing risk of a myocardial infarction, and to a method for
10 lowering cholesterol and reducing risk of a myocardial infarction employing such composition.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 The use of aspirin for reducing the risk of a myocardial infarction and the use of statins for lowering cholesterol and preventing or treating atherosclerosis and cardiovascular disease and cerebrovascular disease are well documented. In fact, it is not uncommon that patients having elevated cholesterol levels who are at high risk for a myocardial infarction take both a statin and aspirin. However, use of both a statin and aspirin may require special care to insure that drug interaction, including physical
20 and chemical incompatibility, and side effects, are kept to a minimum while achieving maximum benefit from these drugs.

 With regard to possible physical drug interaction, aspirin is an acid, while some of the statins, such as pravastatin, atorvastatin and cerivastatin, are alkali salts. Thus, mixing of such statins (alkali salts) with aspirin could result in aspirin
25 hydrolysis as well as statin degradation. Pravastatin is an acid labile compound. When pravastatin and aspirin are combined, the aspirin could cause pravastatin degradation which could result in reduced bioavailability of pravastatin.

 Aspirin is known for causing gastrointestinal irritation and possibly bleeding when used for long-term therapy. It is therefore desirable in long-term aspirin therapy
30 that the aspirin be provided in a form which minimizes side effects, for example a buffered aspirin formulation.

 In view of the above, it is seen that there is a long-felt want in patients required to take both a statin and aspirin for a statin-aspirin formulation which

provides for maximum cholesterol lowering and reduction of risk of a myocardial infarction without the undesirable side effects and drug interaction normally associated with use of such combination.

U.S. Patent No. 6,235,311 to Ullah et al. discloses a bilayered tablet which includes aspirin in a first layer and a statin in a second layer, which tablet is formulated to minimize interaction between aspirin and the statin. The layer containing the statin includes one or more buffering agents to inhibit undesirable statin/aspirin interaction.

WO94/06416 discloses a three-layered tablet which includes an outer immediate release layer, an outer slow release layer, and a middle barrier layer, which may contain a buffer, which separates the immediate release layer from the slow release layer. Among the drugs which may be present in the tablets are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.

U.S. Patent No. 4,590,183 to Bailey discloses a multi-layered tablet which contains aspirin and sodium thiosulfate which may be separated from each other by an inert barrier.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the present invention, a pharmaceutical composition is provided which is preferably in the form of a tablet containing pravastatin and aspirin formulated to reduce and/or inhibit pravastatin:aspirin interaction. The tablet of the invention is preferably in the form of a sandwich structure which includes one layer containing aspirin, another layer containing pravastatin, and one or more intermediate or middle barrier layers or other functional layers which separate the aspirin and pravastatin layers and minimizes interaction between the ingredients in these layers; one or more of these layers may optionally contain active ingredients such as a buffering agent which will help reduce the gastric irritation aspirin could cause. Optionally, the tablet may include an aspirin layer and a pravastatin layer separated by an intermediate or middle barrier layer with an additional layer or layers applied to the outer face of the pravastatin layer, the aspirin layer or both. These additional layers can be for aesthetic purposes, to disguise the taste of the drug substances, and/or to provide for delivery of additional active materials, such as buffers or other ingredients such as niacin, which are often co-administered with statins.

The tablet of the invention provides for maximum patient benefits including maximum cholesterol lowering and reduced risk of a myocardial infarction with minimal physical and chemical incompatibility (including minimal pravastatin:aspirin interaction), and reduced side effects normally associated with use of such drugs.

5 In addition, in accordance with the present invention, a method is provided for lowering serum cholesterol, preventing or inhibiting or treating atherosclerosis, and/or reducing risk of or treating a cardiovascular event or disease including coronary artery disease and cerebrovascular disease, wherein a pharmaceutical composition containing a combination of pravastatin and aspirin in a single dosage form, as
10 described above, in a manner so as to minimize interaction of the pravastatin and aspirin, is administered to a patient in need of treatment.

 Preferred pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention may take the form of several different embodiments. Thus, in one embodiment of the present invention, a pharmaceutical composition is provided as a trilayered sandwich structure
15 wherein the pravastatin and aspirin are formulated together in a single tablet. The tablet of the invention is preferably in the form of a trilayered tablet which includes a first layer, a second layer in the form of a middle barrier layer and a third layer. Aspirin, in the form of granules or crystals of a defined size will be present in the first layer together with optional excipients as described hereinafter, while the pravastatin
20 will be present in the third layer. The middle barrier layer optionally, but preferably, includes one or more buffering agents (as necessary to reduce, inhibit or prevent undesirable statin/aspirin interaction) and optionally one or more excipients as described hereinafter.

 In addition, the trilayered tablet of the invention may include an outer
25 protective coating or finishing layer covering the first layer and/or third layer as described hereinafter.

 In addition, in accordance with the present invention, a pharmaceutical composition is provided which is in the form of a trilayered tablet as described above which includes in one outer layer aspirin granules having an enteric coating to provide
30 maximum efficacy while minimizing side effects resulting from prolonged aspirin therapy.

Another embodiment of the pharmaceutical composition of the invention includes granules of enteric coated aspirin in the first layer and enteric coated pravastatin in the third layer.

The tablets containing the enteric coated granules of aspirin and statin may
5 also include an outer protective coating or finishing layer.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The pharmaceutical composition of the invention which includes a combination of pravastatin and aspirin is effective in preventing, reducing and/or
10 treating elevated cholesterol levels (such as in hypercholesterolemia), atherosclerosis, cardiovascular events and disease including coronary events and cerebrovascular events, and coronary artery disease and/or cerebrovascular disease.

The terms "cardiovascular event(s)" and "cardiovascular disease" as employed herein refer to coronary and/or cerebrovascular event(s) and disease including primary
15 myocardial infarction, secondary myocardial infarction, myocardial ischemia, angina pectoris (including unstable angina), congestive heart failure, sudden cardiac death, cerebral infarction, cerebral thrombosis, cerebral ischemia, transient ischemic attack and the like.

The term "coronary artery disease" (CAD) as employed herein refers to
20 diseases including atherosclerosis of the coronary arteries, previous myocardial infarction, ischemia, angina pectoris and/or heart failure.

The term "cerebrovascular disease" as employed herein refers to diseases including atherosclerosis of the intracranial and/or extracranial arteries, cerebral infarction, cerebral thrombosis, cerebral ischemia, stroke, and/or transient ischemic
25 attacks.

The term "pravastatin" as employed herein refers to pravastatin, pravastatin sodium, other pravastatin salts, and all forms of pravastatin including the dihydroxy acid form and the lactone form.

Aspirin will preferably be employed in the form of acetylsalicylic acid also
30 referred to as salicylic acid acetate, or its salts, esters or complexes.

The pharmaceutical composition of the invention in the form of a tablet will include aspirin in amounts from about 10 to about 800 mg, preferably from about 25 to about 650 mg, most preferably from about 50 to about 325mg.

The aspirin for use in forming the pharmaceutical composition of the invention will preferably be in the form of granules having an average particle size within the range from about 10 microns to about 2 mm, more preferably from about 50 microns to about 1.0 mm.

5 The pharmaceutical composition of the invention will contain pravastatin in an amount as normally employed as exemplified in the 56th Edition of the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR) (2002). Thus, pravastatin may be employed in amounts within the range from about 0.1 mg to 2000 mg per day in single or divided doses, and preferably from about 0.2 to about 200 mg per day, and most preferably, a daily
10 dosage of 10 to 160 mg may be employed in single or divided doses.

 In forming the pharmaceutical composition of the invention in the form of a trilayered tablet, the first layer containing aspirin will optionally, but preferably, include bulking agents such as lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, wood cellulose, corn starch, modified corn starch, calcium phosphate, sugar, dextrose, mannitol,
15 sorbitol or mixtures of two or more thereof. The bulking agent will be present in an amount from about 1 to about 90%, preferably from about 5 to about 85% by weight of the first layer containing aspirin.

 The first layer may also optionally include a tableting lubricant, such as zinc stearate, magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, talc, carnauba wax, stearic acid,
20 palmitic acid or hydrogenated vegetable oils and fats, in an amount within the range from about 0.1 to about 4%, and preferably 0.2 to about 2% by weight of the first layer. The aspirin layer may also optionally include a disintegrant such as corn starch, potato starch, pre-gelatinised starch, croscopovidone, croscarmellose sodium or sodium starch glycollate in an amount within the range from about 0.5 to about 20% by
25 weight of the layer, and preferably from about 1 to about 10% by weight of the layer.

 The third layer of the trilayered tablet containing pravastatin cholesterol lowering agent will optionally include a bulking agent such as lactose, microcrystalline cellulose, modified corn starch, calcium phosphate or other bulking agent as set out above for the first layer, in an amount within the range from about 1 to
30 about 90%, preferably from about 5 to about 85% by weight of the third layer. In addition, the third layer may optionally include a binder such as corn starch, pregelatinized starch, polyvinyl pyrrolidone (PVP), hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC), ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate and the like, in an amount within the range

from about 0.5 to about 20%, preferably from about 1 to about 10% by weight of the third layer, a disintegrating agent, such as croscarmellose sodium, crospovidone, pre-gelatinised starch, corn starch or sodium starch glycolate in an amount within the range from about 0.5 to about 20% by weight, preferably from about 1 to about 15%
5 by weight of the third layer, and a tableting lubricant such as magnesium stearate, zinc stearate, or other lubricant as set out above with respect to the first layer in an amount from about 0.1 to about 4%, preferably from about 0.2 to about 2% by weight of the third layer.

The third layer containing pravastatin may also optionally include one or more
10 buffering agents which include conventional acid buffers such as calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide, dihydroxyaluminum sodium carbonate, aluminum magnesium hydroxide sulfate or aluminum hydroxide magnesium carbonate co-dried gel, or any of the acid buffers set out for use in the middle barrier layer, or mixtures of one or more thereof,
15 in amounts as needed to insure that the aspirin will be sufficiently buffered to inhibit GI side effects. Thus, amounts of buffering agent within the range from about 10 to about 800 mg, preferably from about 70 to about 300 mg will be employed depending upon the amount of aspirin present in the first layer.

The middle or barrier layer will optionally include a bulking agent such as any
20 of the bulking agents set out above for use in the first (aspirin) layer or third (pravastatin) layer, such as microcrystalline cellulose, corn starch, lactose, and the like, in an amount within the range from about 0 to about 90%, preferably from about 5 to about 85% based on the weight of the middle barrier layer; a disintegrating agent such as any of the disintegrating agents set out above with respect to the third
25 (pravastatin) layer in an amount with the range from about 0.5 to about 20%, preferably from about 1 to about 15% by weight of the middle barrier layer; a tableting lubricant, such as any of the tableting lubricants set out above with respect to the first layer and the third layer, in an amount within the range from about 0.1 to about 4%, preferably from about 0.2 to about 2% by weight of the middle barrier
30 layer.

The middle barrier layer may optionally, but preferably, include a buffering agent in an amount sufficient to reduce gastric irritation that can be caused by aspirin and insure that the aspirin will be sufficiently buffered to minimize interaction

between the aspirin and pravastatin. Thus, amounts of buffering agent within the range from about 10 to about 800 mg, preferably from about 70 to about 300 mg, depending upon the amount of aspirin present in the first layer.

Examples of buffering agent suitable for use in the middle barrier layer include
 5 calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, sodium phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, dihydroxyaluminum sodium carbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, aluminum magnesium hydroxide sulfate or aluminum hydroxide, magnesium carbonate co-dried gel, sodium acetate, sodium citrate, sodium tartrate, sodium fumarate, sodium malate, sodium
 10 succinate, aluminum oxide, or mixtures of two or more thereof.

Preferred trilayered tablet formulations of the invention are set out below.

I. One to three trilayered tablet(s) containing pravastatin-aspirin where the middle barrier layer includes one or more buffering agents (Total Tablet(s) Weight = 350 to 4000 mg)

15

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet(s) (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		
Aspirin	18 to 90	50 to 325
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	5 to 1100
Optional Disintegrants	0 to 10	0 to 50
Binders	0 to 50	0 to 250
Lubricants	0.2 to 10	0.18 to 50
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 50
Total Weight of First Layer	100%	90 to 2000 mg
<u>Middle Barrier Layer containing Buffering Agents</u>		
Buffering Agents	10 to 90	70 to 315
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	7.5 to 298
Binders	0 to 10	0 to 35
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.12 to 7.5

Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 35
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 700 mg

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 40	10 to 160
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	10 to 340
Binders	1 to 10	2 to 40
Disintegrating Agents	1 to 15	2 to 60
Buffering Agents	35 to 75	70 to 300
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 8
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 40
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1100 mg

- II. One to three trilayered tablet(s) containing pravastatin-aspirin in a formulation where the middle barrier layer does not include a buffering agent (total
5 tablet(s) weight = 350 to 4000 mg)

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet(s) (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		
Aspirin	18 to 90	50 to 325
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	5 to 1100
Optional Binders	0 to 25	0 to 250
Lubricants	0.1 to 2	0.6 to 9
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 50
Total Weight of First Layer	100%	90 to 500 mg
<u>Middle Barrier Layer (No Buffering Agents)</u>		
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	3 to 255
Disintegrating Agents	0 to 10	0 to 30
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.2 to 6

Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 30
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 350 mg

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 33	10 to 200
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	10 to 700
Binders	0.2 to 4	0.4 to 9
Disintegrating Agents	0.5 to 15	2 to 60
Buffering Agents	35 to 75	70 to 450
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 12
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 60
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1100 mg

Specific preferred trilayered tablet formulations of the invention are set out below.

- 5 I. One to three trilayered tablet(s) containing pravastatin-aspirin where the middle barrier layer includes one or more buffering agents.

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet(s) (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		
{ Aspirin Starch } granules	18 to 90	50 to 325
	5 to 85	5 to 380
{ Lactose Microcrystalline Cellulose	0 to 75	0 to 375
	0 to 50	0 to 250
Optional Croscarmellose Sodium	0 to 10	0 to 50
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate	0.2 to 10	0.18 to 50
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 50
Total Weight of First Layer	100%	90 to 2000 mg

Middle Barrier Layer

Tribuffer Alkaline Granules	30 to 90	18 to 300
(calcium carbonate	30 to 70)	
(magnesium carbonate	5 to 20)	
(magnesium oxide	10 to 30)	
(sodium phosphate monobasic	1 to 3)	
(cornstarch	5 to 20)	
(citric acid	1 to 3)	
Optional Microcrystalline Cellulose	0 to 30	0 to 90
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate	0.2 to 2	0.12 to 7.5
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 35
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 700 mg

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 50	10 to 200
Lactose	20 to 75	8 to 450
Microcrystalline Cellulose	10 to 30	20 to 180
Povidone	0.2 to 1.5	0.4 to 9
Magnesium Oxide	35 to 75	70 to 450
Croscarmellose Sodium	2 to 7	8 to 42
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 12
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 60
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1100 mg

Total weight of tablet 350 to 4000 mg

5

II. One to three trilayered tablet(s) containing pravastatin-aspirin in a formulation where the middle barrier layer does not include a buffering agent.

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet(s) (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		

Aspirin	} granules	18 to 90	50 to 325
Starch		5 to 85	5 to 380
Lactose		0 to 75	0 to 375
Microcrystalline Cellulose		0 to 25	0 to 250
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate		0.1 to 2	1 to 4
Other Excipients		0 to 10	0 to 50
Total Weight of First Layer		100%	90 to 1400 mg

Middle Barrier Layer

Lactose	5 to 85	3 to 255
Sodium Croscarmellose	0 to 10	0 to 30
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate	0.2 to 2	0.2 to 6
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 30
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 300 mg

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 33	10 to 200
Lactose	20 to 85	40 to 450
Microcrystalline Cellulose	10 to 30	20 to 180
Povidone	0.2 to 1.5	0.4 to 9
Magnesium Oxide	35 to 75	70 to 450
Croscarmellose Sodium	4 to 7	8 to 42
Magnesium or Zinc Stearate	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 12
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 60
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1400 mg

5

Total weight of tablet	350 to 4000 mg
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In forming a trilayered tablet of the invention, the first layer containing aspirin, the third layer containing pravastatin and the middle barrier layer may each be

prepared by conventional wet granulation, dry granulation (compaction) or dry blending techniques.

The first, middle and third layers may then be compressed and combined to form a trilayered tablet employing conventional trilayer tableting equipment.

5 Other conventional ingredients which may optionally be present in any of the three layers include preservatives, stabilizers, anti-adherents or silica flow conditioners or glidants, such as Syloid brand silicon dioxide as well as antioxidants such as Vitamin E, Vitamin C, and folic acid, Vitamin B₆ and Vitamin B₁₂.

The trilayer tablet of the invention may also include an outer protective
10 coating layer which may include up to about 15% by weight of the trilayer tablet. The outer protective coating layer which is applied over the trilayered tablet may comprise any conventional coating formulations and will include one or more film-formers, such as a hydrophilic polymer like hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (HPMC) and a hydrophobic polymer like ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol-maleic
15 anhydride copolymers, acrylic copolymers, β -pinene polymers, glyceryl esters of wood resins and the like, and one or more plasticizers, such as polyethylene glycol, triethyl citrate, diethyl phthalate, propylene glycol, glycerin, butyl phthalate, castor oil and the like.

The film formers are applied from a solvent system containing one or more
20 solvents including water, alcohols like methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol, ketones like acetone, or ethylmethyl ketone, chlorinated hydrocarbons like methylene chloride, dichloroethane, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

Another embodiment of the pharmaceutical composition of the invention is formed of trilayered tablets containing enteric coated aspirin granules in the first layer.

25 The aspirin granules can be coated with conventional enteric polymers coatings in aqueous or non-aqueous systems. For example, Eudragit L-30D-55 (acrylic acid copolymers-Rohm Pharma) (5 to 25% solids) containing 10 to 15% of diethylphthalate (w/w) as plasticizer can be used in an aqueous system.

Other conventional enteric polymer coating systems may be employed such as
30 Eudragit R and S series resins, (acrylic acid copolymers-Rohm Pharma), cellulose acetate phthalate, cellulose acetate maleate, cellulose acetate succinate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalate, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose acetate succinate, and the like, and a suitable plasticizer such as triethyl citrate, diethyl

phthalate, tributyl citrate, triacetin, dibutyl phthalate, dibutyl sebacate, Myvacet 940, and other commonly used plasticizers as may be suitable for particular enteric polymers can be used. It will be appreciated that any polymer with suitable plasticizer can be used in aqueous or non-aqueous system to form an enteric coating on the
5 aspirin granule or particle.

In another embodiment of the pharmaceutical composition of the invention, the enteric coated aspirin granules described above may be further coated with an outer protective finishing coat or layer as described hereinbefore.

The double coated aspirin granules can be tableted as described above.

10 In yet another embodiment of the pharmaceutical composition of the invention, aspirin is enteric coated as described above and the pravastatin can optionally be enteric coated. Pravastatin can be coated in the form of pure drug or after spheronization or agglomeration. The particles for coating do not need to be perfectly spherical. These could be rods or irregular particles.

15 In carrying out the method of the present invention, the pharmaceutical composition of the invention containing the combination of the pravastatin and aspirin may be administered to mammalian species, such as monkeys, dogs, cats, rats, humans, etc., and, as described hereinbefore, may be incorporated in a trilayered tablet. The above dosage forms will also include the necessary carrier material,
20 excipient, lubricant, buffer, antibacterial, bulking agent (such as mannitol), anti-oxidants such as Vitamin C and Vitamin E, as well as Vitamin B₆, Vitamin B₁₂, folic acid, sodium bisulfite, and the like.

The dose administered must be adjusted according to age, weight and condition of the patient, as well as the route of administration, dosage form and
25 regimen and the desired result.

The compositions described above may be administered in the dosage forms as described above in single or divided doses of one to four times daily. It may be advisable to start a patient on a low dose combination and work up gradually to a high dose combination.

30 Tablets of various sizes can be prepared, e.g., up to about 1500 mg in total weight, containing the active substances in the ranges described above. These tablets can, of course, be scored to provide for fractional doses in some cases.

Some of the active substances described above form commonly known, pharmaceutically acceptable salts such as alkali metal and other common basic salts or acid addition salts, etc. References to the base substances are therefore intended to include those common salts known to be substantially equivalent to the parent
5 compound.

The formulations as described above will be administered for a prolonged period, that is, for as long as the potential for cardiovascular events and disease including coronary artery disease and/or cerebrovascular disease remains or the symptoms continue. Sustained release forms of such formulations which may provide
10 such amounts daily, biweekly, weekly, monthly and the like may also be employed. A dosing period of at least 10 days are required to achieve minimal benefit.

EXAMPLES

The following Examples represent preferred embodiments of the present
15 invention.

Formulations suitable for oral administration are prepared as described below.

EXAMPLE 1

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 40 mg
20 pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer with a buffered intermediate layer may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules, dissolving the pravastatin sodium and the povidone in purified water and using this solution to granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate.

- 5 The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

- The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture
10 and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The three layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing

¹ The purified water in the first layer in Example 1 (as well as in Examples 2 to 6 and 8 to 10) is used for wet granulation and removed during drying.

² The tribuffer alkaline granules used in the Example 1 formulation and in Examples 2 to 9 has the following composition: calcium carbonate 52.63%w/w, magnesium oxide heavy 21.05% w/w, magnesium carbonate 13.16% w/w, monobasic sodium phosphate 1.32 %w/w, cornstarch 10.52 % w/w, citric acid 1.32 % w/w.

³ The aspirin 10% starch granules used in the Example 1 formulation and in Examples 2 to 10 is obtained from Rhodia, Cranbury NJ, USA.

81 mg of aspirin and 40 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 2

- 5 A trilayered tablet containing 325 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 40 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and an intermediate layer containing buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Iron oxide red	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water ¹	q.s.
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second, intermediate layer	200.00
Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	0.90
Total third layer	362.00
Total tablet weight	962.00

- 10 The components of the three layers are processed as per example 1 and the granules transferred to a rotary tablet press designed for making layered tablets which is operated to yield tablets containing 325 mg of aspirin and 40 mg of pravastatin sodium with an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 3

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 80 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer with a buffered intermediate layer may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	80.00
Lactose monohydrate	211.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	28.00
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Blue #2 aluminum lake 11-14%	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	406.80
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	906.80

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules, dissolving the pravastatin sodium and the povidone in purified water and using this solution to granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate. The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture
5 and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The three layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 80 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer
10 containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 4

A trilayered tablet containing 325 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 80 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and an intermediate layer containing
15 buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	80.00
Lactose monohydrate	212.60
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	28.00
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water ¹	q.s.
Total first layer	406.80
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second, intermediate layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	0.90
Total third layer	362.00
Total tablet weight	968.80

The components of the three layers are processed as per Example 1 and the granules transferred to a rotary tablet press designed for making layered tablets which is operated to yield tablets containing 325 mg of aspirin and 80 mg of pravastatin sodium with an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 5

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 40 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	263.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.70
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.30
Croscarmellose sodium	20.20
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	3.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	405.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Magnesium stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	90.08 (81 mg aspirin)
Croscarmellose sodium	8.85
Lactose	193.86
Zinc stearate	2.21
Total third layer	295.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

The components of the three layers are processed as per example 1 and the granules transferred to a rotary tablet press designed for making layered tablets which is operated to yield tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 80 mg of pravastatin sodium with an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

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EXAMPLE 6

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 40 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

10

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	198.84
Brown dye PB-1596	0.16
Magnesium stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	89.55 (81 mg aspirin)
Lactose Fast-Flo	160.95
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules; the pravastatin sodium and the povidone are dissolved in purified water and this solution is used to granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate. The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The triple layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 40 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 7

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 40 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ¹	198.84
Brown dye PB-1596	0.16

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Magnesium stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	89.55 (81 mg aspirin)
Lactose Fast-Flo	160.95
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

A direct compression process is used to prepare the pravastatin layer by blending the pravastatin sodium and the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate in a suitable mixer until uniform. This powder blend is then lubricated by
5 further mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture
10 and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The triple layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layered tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 40 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer
15 containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 8

A trilayered tablet containing 81 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 20 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer (made by a wet granulation process) and an
20 intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	20.00
Lactose monohydrate	129.60
Microcrystalline cellulose	30.10
Povidone	2.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	6.60
Croscarmellose sodium	10.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.40
Zinc stearate	1.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	200.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Lactose Fast-Flo	160.50
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	700.00

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules, dissolving the pravastatin sodium and the povidone in purified water and using this solution to granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate. The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The triple layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 20 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers

EXAMPLE 9

A trilayered tablet containing 325 mg aspirin in a first outer layer and 20 mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer (made by a wet granulation process) and an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffering agents may be prepared as follows.

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	20.00
Lactose monohydrate	129.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	30.10
Povidone	2.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	6.60
Croscarmellose sodium	10.00
Ferric oxide red	0.40
Zinc stearate	1.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	200.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	362.00
Total tablet weight	762.00

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules, dissolving the pravastatin sodium and the povidone in purified water and using this solution to

granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate. The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

- 5 The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

- 10 The triple layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of triple layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 20 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an intermediate layer containing alkaline earth buffers.

EXAMPLE 10

- 15 A trilayered tablet containing 81mg of aspirin in the first outer layer and 40mg pravastatin sodium in a second outer layer and a non-buffered intermediate layer may be prepared as follows:

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Lactose	193.00
Croscarmellose sodium	6.00
Zinc stearate	1.00

Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules ³	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

A wet granulation process is used to prepare pravastatin granules, dissolving the pravastatin sodium and the povidone in purified water and using this solution to granulate the mixture of the other first layer ingredients except for the zinc stearate. The granules are dried, sieved and lubricated by mixing with the zinc stearate.

The second, intermediate layer components are mixed together dry in a suitable tumble blender.

The aspirin layer components, except for zinc stearate, are combined by mixing in a suitable tumble blender. The zinc stearate is then added to this mixture and mixing continued to lubricate the blend.

The triple layer tablets are prepared by having the granules of powder mixes for each layer in separate hoppers on a tablet press designed for the manufacture of layered tablets. Operating the tablet press results in triple layers tablets containing 81 mg of aspirin and 40 mg of pravastatin sodium possessing an unbuffered intermediate layer.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising pravastatin and aspirin in a formulation designed to reduce pravastatin:aspirin interaction wherein the pravastatin and aspirin are formulated together in a sandwich structure, the aspirin being present
5 in a first layer, and the pravastatin being present in another layer, and a second or middle barrier layer separating said first layer containing aspirin from said other layer containing pravastatin.
2. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein said sandwich structure is in the form of a tablet.
- 10 3. The composition as defined in Claim 1 containing 20 mg, 40 mg, or 80 mg pravastatin.
4. The composition as defined in Claim 1 containing 81 mg or 325 mg aspirin.
5. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the middle barrier layer
15 includes one or more buffering agents.
6. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the first layer comprises aspirin granules, one or more bulking agents and optionally one or more lubricants and optionally one or more other excipients.
7. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the other layer comprises
20 pravastatin, one or more bulking agents, optionally one or more binders, optionally one or more buffering agents, optionally one or more lubricants, and optionally one or more other excipients.
8. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the middle barrier layer comprises one or more bulking agents, optionally one or more buffering agents, and
25 optionally one or more other excipients.
9. The composition as defined in Claim 6 wherein the buffering agent is calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate, magnesium hydroxide, calcium hydroxide, sodium phosphate, aluminum hydroxide, dihydroxyaluminum sodium carbonate, sodium carbonate, sodium bicarbonate, aluminum magnesium
30 hydroxide sulfate or aluminum hydroxide magnesium carbonate co-dried gel, sodium acetate, sodium citrate, sodium tartrate, sodium fumarate, sodium malate, sodium succinate, aluminum oxide, or mixtures of two or more thereof.

10. The composition as defined in Claim 8 wherein the middle barrier layer is comprised of tribuffer alkaline granules and optionally a tableting lubricant.

11. The composition as defined in Claim 10 wherein the tribuffer alkaline granules are comprised of calcium carbonate, magnesium oxide, magnesium carbonate, sodium phosphate monobasic, a bulking agent and optionally citric acid.

12. The composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the first layer comprises aspirin, one or more bulking agents, optionally one or more lubricants, and optionally one or more other excipients; the middle barrier layer comprises one or more bulking agents, optionally one or more buffering agents, optionally one or more lubricants, and optionally one or more other excipients; and the other layer comprises pravastatin, one or more bulking agents, optionally one or more buffering agents, optionally one or more binders, optionally one or more disintegrating agents, optionally one or more lubricants, and optionally one or more other excipients.

13. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 2 further including an outer protective coating or finishing layer surrounding said tablet.

14. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 wherein the aspirin is in the form of enteric coated aspirin granules.

15. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 comprising trilayered tablet comprising an outer layer containing pravastatin, another outer layer containing aspirin and the middle barrier layer includes one or more buffering agents.

16. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 comprising a trilayered tablet.

17. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 16 as set out below:

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		
Aspirin	18 to 90	50 to 325
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	5 to 1100
Optional Disintegrants	0 to 10	0 to 50
Binders	0 to 50	0 to 250
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.18 to 50

Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 50
Total Weight of First Layer	100%	90 to 2000 mg

Middle Barrier Layer
containing Buffering Agents

Buffering Agents	0 to 90	0 to 315
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	7.5 to 298
Binders	0 to 10	0 to 35
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.12 to 7.5
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 35
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 700 mg

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 40	10 to 160
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	10 to 340
Binders	1 to 10	2 to 40
Disintegrating Agents	1 to 15	2 to 60
Buffering Agents	35 to 75	70 to 300
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 8
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 40
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1100 mg

18. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 16 as set out below:

5

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Weight % (based on each separate layer)</u>	<u>Amount per One to Three Tablet (mg)</u>
<u>First Layer containing Aspirin</u>		
Aspirin	18 to 90	50 to 325
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	5 to 1100
Binders	0 to 25	0 to 250
Lubricants	0.1 to 2	0.6 to 9
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 50

Total Weight of First Layer	100%	90 to 500 mg
<u>Middle Barrier Layer</u> <u>(No Buffering Agents)</u>		
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	3 to 255
Disintegrating Agents	0 to 10	0 to 30
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.2 to 6
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 30
Total Weight of Middle Barrier Layer	100%	60 to 350 mg
<u>Third Layer containing Pravastatin</u>		
Pravastatin Sodium	5 to 40	10 to 200
Bulking Agents	5 to 85	10 to 700
Binders	0.2 to 4	0.4 to 9
Disintegrating Agents	0.5 to 15	2 to 60
Buffering Agents	35 to 75	70 to 450
Lubricants	0.2 to 2	0.4 to 12
Other Excipients	0 to 10	0 to 60
Total Weight of Third Layer	100%	200 to 1100 mg

19. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 in the form of a
5 trilayered tablet having the following composition:

First Layer containing Aspirin

Aspirin }
Starch } granules

Optional Lactose

10 Optional Microcrystalline Cellulose

Optional Croscarmellose Sodium

Magnesium or Zinc Stearate

Middle Barrier Layer

- Tribuffer Alkaline Granules
 (calcium carbonate
 magnesium carbonate
 5 magnesium oxide
 sodium phosphate monobasic
 cornstarch
 citric acid)
 Optional Microcrystalline Cellulose
 10 Zinc or Magnesium Stearate

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

- Pravastatin Sodium
 Lactose
 Microcrystalline Cellulose
 15 Povidone
 Magnesium Oxide
 Croscarmellose Sodium
 Magnesium or Zinc Stearate

- 20 20. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 in the form of a
 trilayered tablet having the following composition:

First Layer containing Aspirin

- Aspirin }
 Starch } granules
 25 Lactose
 Microcrystalline Cellulose
 Magnesium or Zinc Stearate

Middle Barrier Layer

- Lactose
 30 Sodium Croscarmellose
 Magnesium or Zinc Stearate

Third Layer containing Pravastatin

Pravastatin Sodium

Lactose

Microcrystalline Cellulose

5 Povidone

Magnesium oxide

Croscarmellose Sodium

Magnesium or Zinc Stearate

- 10 21. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1 in the form of a tablet having the following composition:

TABLET 1

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Total tablet weight	900.00

;

TABLET 2

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Iron oxide red	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water ¹	q.s.
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second, intermediate layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	0.90
Total third layer	362.00
Total tablet weight	962.00

;

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TABLET 3

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	80.00
Lactose monohydrate	211.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	28.00
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Blue #2 aluminum lake 11-14%	0.80

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	406.80
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	906.80

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TABLET 4

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	80.00
Lactose monohydrate	212.60
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	28.00
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Iron oxide red	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water ¹	q.s.
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second, intermediate layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	0.90
Total third layer	362.00

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Total tablet weight	968.80

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TABLET 5

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	263.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.70
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.30
Croscarmellose sodium	20.20
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	3.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	405.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Magnesium stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	90.08 (81 mg aspirin)
Croscarmellose sodium	8.85
Lactose	193.86
Zinc stearate	2.21
Total third layer	295.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

;

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TABLET 6 or 7

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	198.84
Brown dye PB-1596	0.16
Magnesium stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	89.55 (81 mg aspirin)
Lactose Fast-Flo	160.95
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

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TABLET 8

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	20.00
Lactose monohydrate	129.90
Microcrystalline cellulose	30.10
Povidone	2.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	6.60
Croscarmellose sodium	10.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.40
Zinc stearate	1.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	200.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	75.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Aspirin 10% starch granules	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Lactose Fast-Flo	160.50
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	700.00

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TABLET 9

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	20.00
Lactose monohydrate	129.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	30.10
Povidone	2.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	6.60
Croscarmellose sodium	10.00
Ferric oxide red	0.40
Zinc stearate	1.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	200.00
Tribuffer alkaline granules ²	199.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	361.10 (325 mg aspirin)
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	362.00
Total tablet weight	762.00

; or

TABLET 10

Ingredient	Amount per tablet (mg)
Pravastatin sodium	40.00
Lactose monohydrate	259.80
Microcrystalline cellulose	60.20
Povidone	4.00
Magnesium oxide, heavy	13.20
Croscarmellose sodium	20.00
Ferric oxide yellow	0.80
Zinc stearate	2.00
Purified water	q.s. ¹
Total first layer	400.00
Lactose	193.00
Croscarmellose sodium	6.00
Zinc stearate	1.00
Total second (intermediate) layer	200.00
Aspirin 10% starch granules	90.00 (81 mg aspirin)
Microcrystalline cellulose	48.00
Lactose	160.50
Zinc stearate	1.50
Total third layer	300.00
Total tablet weight	900.00

5 ¹ The purified water in the first layer in Tablets 1 to 6 and 8 to 10 is used for wet granulation and removed during drying.

² The tribuffer alkaline granules used in Tablets 1 to 9 has the following composition: calcium carbonate 52.63%w/w, magnesium oxide heavy 21.05% w/w, magnesium carbonate 13.16% w/w, monobasic sodium phosphate 1.32 %w/w, cornstarch 10.52 % w/w, citric acid 1.32 % w/w.

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22. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 2 wherein the aspirin is in the form of enteric coated granules of aspirin and/or the statin is in the form of enteric coated granules of statin.

23. A method for lowering serum cholesterol or preventing or inhibiting or treating atherosclerosis or reducing risk of or treating a cardiovascular event or disease, coronary artery disease or cerebrovascular disease, which comprises administering to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a
- 5 pharmaceutical composition as defined in Claim 1.