(19) Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) EP 0 637 236 B1

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent:
09.10.1996 Bulletin 1996/41

(21) Application number: **93908973.6**

(22) Date of filing: **21.04.1993**

(51) Int. Cl.[6]: **A61K 9/30**, A61K 31/66

(86) International application number:
PCT/FI93/00166

(87) International publication number:
WO 93/21907 (11.11.1993 Gazette 1993/27)

(54) PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION AND PROCESS FOR ITS MANUFACTURE

PHARMAZEUTISCHE ZUBEREITUNG UND VERFAHREN FÜR IHRE HERSTELLUNG

PREPARATION PHARMACEUTIQUE ET SON PROCEDE DE FABRICATION

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE

(30) Priority: **24.04.1992 SE 9201299**

(43) Date of publication of application:
08.02.1995 Bulletin 1995/06

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EP-A- 0 275 468
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EP 0 637 236 B1

Printed by Rank Xerox (UK) Business Services
2.13.6/3.4

Description

The object of the present invention is a pharmaceutical preparation for oral use, especially a tablet, which as its active ingredient contains a pharmacologically acceptable salt of dichloromethylene bisphoshonic acid, i.e. a clodronate, especially disodium clodronate.

Dichloromethylene bisphosphonic acid, especially in the form of its salt, such as the disodium salt, is a known drug for example for the treatment of diseases relating to the calcium metabolism and to the sceletal system, such as to the metabolism of the bone, for example for osteoporosis.

Clodronate has previously been administered orally in the form of conventional compressed tablets or capsules (EP-A-0 275 468). Such a tablet or capsule disintegrates in the stomach of the patient releasing the active agent, which in the acidic environment of the stomach is converted to the free acid form. As clodronic acid is poorly absorbed, the bioavailability of the active agent will be low, and consequently the required dosage level has to be increased. This in turn is a disadvantage as a large tablet has to be used, which is inconvenient for the patient and reduces patient compliance. Also a large dose increases the risk for side-effects.

According to the invention it has now been discovered that it is possible to achieve a substantially improved bioavailability if the active agent is prevented from being transformed into its acid form, that is, if it is allowed to pass the stomach region in unliberated form into the lower digestive tract to be released at a site thereof which is optimal from the point of view of the absorption of the active agent.

According to the invention it has now been discovered that the said objective is reached if the preparation is a drug delivery form which is enteric coated with a film which dissolves at a pH of from 5 to 7.2.

Preferably the film dissolves at a pH of from 5.0 to 6.5.

There is a number of film forming agents suitable for the purpose of the invention. Important from the point of view of the invention is that the agent used dissolves at the pH mentioned, i.e. at pH 5 to 7.2. These agents are known as such and there is a number of commercially available substances. Of such agents may be mentioned i.a. shellac, cellulose acetate phthalate (CAP) (e.g. Aquateric® by FMC Corporation), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate (HPMCAS, e.g. Aqoat® by ShinEtsu), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate (HPMCP, HP 50 and HP 55 by ShinEtsu), polyvinyl acetate phthalate (PVAP), cellulose acetate trimellitate (CAT, by e.g. Eastman Fine Chemicals), as well as various metacrylic acid derivatives (Eudragits by RöhmPharma).

The film forming agents are used dissolved either in suitable organic solvents (e.g. alcohols, chlorinated hydrocarbons, acetone etc), or in water, optionally in mixture with an organic solvent, and optionally using plasticisers, also known in the art, e.g. phthalic esters, citric esters, triacetin.

A preferred film forming agent to be used in the invention is hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate, which is e.g. commercially available in forms that dissolve at pH 5 or alternatively pH 5.5.

The pharmaceutical preparation can be of any shape and form suitable to be provided with an enteric coating, representative examples being a tablet, granule, pellet, capsule or the like.

It has, according to the invention, surprisingly been discovered that the level of absorption of clodronate from a drug delivery form, which is enteric coated with a film forming agent which dissolves at the said pH of 5.0 to 7.2, is more than twice as high as from a corresponding drug delivery form which is uncoated, and even 4 to 5 times better than the absorption from a tablet suspended in water or from a sachet. This is be apparent from the absorption tests and their results presented later.

In the preparation according to the invention clodronate is used preferably as its disodium salt, either as the anhydrate or as a hydrate (tetrahydrate), the latter forming needle-shaped crystals of a size < 100 µm. The preparation according to the invention may, in addition to the active agent, contain conventional additives, such as carriers, diluents, fillers, lubricants, disintegrating agents etc. These are known in the art. The amount of clodronate in the preparation can vary within wide limits, e.g. from 10 to 95 % by weight, being typically 50 to 90 % by weight. The film constitutes usually about 2 to 10 % by weight of the total weight of the preparation, typically about 3 to 5 % by weight. The exact amount and the thickness of the film are not critical, as long as the film is intact.

The invention also concerns a process for the preparation of the said oral preparation according to which a pharmacologically acceptable salt of dichloromethylene bisphosphonic acid is combined with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier or other additivies, whereafter the mixture obtained is formulated into a drug delivery form and coated to form a film which dissolves at a pH-value of from 5 to 7.2.

The preparation thus takes place by combining the active agent with per se known carrier and other additives and adjuvants. As a filler for example lactose, microcrystalline cellulose (e.g. Emcocel 90 M), mannitol and corn starch may be used. Also a disintegrating substance, such as croscarmellose sodium (Ac-Di-Sol), a binder, such as polyvidone (e.g. Kollidon K 30) and stearic acid may be used, which last mentioned substance may also function as a lubricant, as also magnesium stearate. As a lubricant also talc and colloidal silicon dioxide (e.g. Aerosil 200) may be used. When formulating the preparation, water and/or ethanol is used, typically as solvents for the binder in the granulation. The preparation is carried out using per se known tabletting, granulating or pelletization techniques.

The cores thus prepared are then coated and this purpose any apparatus suitable for film coating may be used, such as Accela-Cota type of apparatus (Manesty) or apparatuses based on air suspension technique, e.g. Aeromatic or Glatt.

For this purpose the film forming agent is dissolved, depending on the agent, either in a suitable organic solvent, such as methanol, methylene chloride or acetone, or in water or e.g. a water-alcohol mixture, the alcohol typically being e.g. methanol, ethanol or isopropanol.

In the following the invention is illustrated by means of an example, which is in no way intended to be limiting.

Example 1

For the preparation of a tablet according to the invention the following ingredients were used for the tablet core:

Disodium clodronate anhydrate	800.00 mg
Polyvidon.	30.00 mg
Croscarmellose sodium	29.40 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose	38.70 mg
Lactose	119.91 mg
Stearic acid	18.75 mg
Coll. anhydrous silicon dioxide	20.00 mg
Talc	34.00 mg
Magn. stearate	9.24 mg

In the first stage of the tablet preparation, the clodronate is granulated with polyvidon in a mixture of water and ethanol. The drug is wet granulated and sieved through a 1.5 mm sieve. The wet mass of granules is dried at about 40 °C to a suitable total moisture content of appr. 19%. The dried granules are then sieved on a 1.25 mm sieve. Thereafter the clodronate-polyvidon-granules are mixed with the colloidal silicon dioxide, Croscarmellose sodium and microcrystalline cellulose. The mixture is wetted with a solution of stearic acid and ethanol, wet-sieved and dried at +30 °C to a moisture content of appr. 18%. Thereafter the mass is dry-sifted through a 1.5 mm sieve. The remaining colloidal silicon dioxide as well as the talc, magnesium stearate and the lactose is added while mixing. Thereafter the mixture is formed into tablets in tabletting apparatus, using 9 x 21 mm punches to form tablets of a mean weight of 1.3 g (± 5%).

The prepared tablets were then coated with a coating solution, the composition of which per tablet was

Hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate (HP 55)	52.00 mg
Diethylphthalate	7.80 mg
Ethanol	516.60 mg
Purif. water	135.70 mg

The diethylphthalate is the plasticizer and the ethanol and the water form the evaporating part of the system. The "solids" content of the HPMCP-solution was about 9 %.

The coating took place in an apparatus of Accela Cota-type under the following coating conditions.

Accela Cota 24"-coating apparatus (Ecco 40 DA-spray gun; Watson-Marlow peristaltic pump)

Cores	9 kg
Inlet air temp.	appr. + 50 °C
Outlet air temp.	appr. + 35 °C
Core temp.	appr. + 30 °C
Injection speed	30-20 rpm
Preheating time	appr. 10 min
Drum speed	appr. 8 rpm
Atomizing air pressure	2.5 bar

In the following test report the results of experiments are reported wherein the bioavailability of an enteric coated tablet according to the invention (Example 1) was compared to an uncoated, but otherwise to its composition identical clodronate tablet, as well as to that of a clodronate sachet formulation and a clodronate solution.

The composition of the sachet was:

Disodium clodronate	800.00 mg
Polyvidon.	50.00 mg
Aspartame	50.00 mg
Arom. Passion	62.50 mg
Mannitol	87.50 mg
Spir. fort.	q.s.
Aq. purif.	q.s.

Method

The panel consisted of 6 healthy volunteers, 3 women and 3 men, 24 to 28 years of age. Each subject received one 800 mg dose of clodronate sachet and one 800 mg enteric coated tablet of clodronate with 200 ml of water. All six subjects had participated in an earlier study wherein i.a. an uncoated tablet had been tested, and four of them had received a 800 mg clodronate tablet suspended in 200 ml of water. These data were used as historical controls for the present study. The interval between the studies was six months.

The study was of a balanced, randomized, two-period cross over design.

Fourteen (14) venous blood samples (10 ml each) were taken during each study period according to the following schedule: O (pre-drug), 0.25 (15 min), 0.5 (30 min), 0.75 (45 min), 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 6.0, 8.0, 10.0, 12.0, and 24.0 hours following drug administration.

Urine was gathered as follows: In fractions of two hours up to 8.0 h (0.0-2.0 h, 2.0-4.0 h, 4.0-6.0 h and 6.0-8.0 h), of four hours up to 12.0 h (8.0-12.0 h) and of twelve hours up to 24.0 h (12.0-24.0 h).

Analysis of free, unmetabolized clodronate in serum was carried out by a gas chromatographic - mass spectrometric method. The detection limit of the method was 30 ng/ml and it was linear from 30 to 3000 ng/ml.

Detection of free, unmetabolized clodronate in urine was executed by a gas chromatographic method. The method was linear from 5 to 250 µg/ml.

The statistical analyses were carried out using Siphar program.

Results

The AUC_{0-24h} (area under curve) of the four clodronate formulations are presented in the following table:

Delivery form	AUC_{0-24h} (ng/ml*h)
Enteric tablet	
-mean	2478.60
-standard deviation (SD)	1787.18
Tablet	
-mean	1195.06
-SD	930.45
Sachet	
-mean	679.03
-SD	360.22
Susp. tablet	
-mean	564.78
-SD	505.05

From the results in the table it clear that the AUC_{0-24h} values for the four clodronate delivery forms, i.e. the enteric coated tablet, tablet, sachet and dissolved tablet differed significantly from each other. The bioavailability of the enteric coated tablet was approximately twice that of an ordinary tablet, and the bioavailability from the solution formulations (sachet and dissolved tablet) were about the half of that from the ordinary tablet.

Claims

1. Pharmaceutical preparation for oral use containing as an active agent a pharmacologically acceptable salt of dichloromethylene bisphosphonic acid, **characterized** in that the preparation is a drug delivery form which is enteric coated with a film which dissolves at a pH-value of from 5 to 7.2.

2. Preparation according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the film dissolves at a pH-value of 5.0 to 6.5.

3. Preparation according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the film is of cellulose acetate phthalate (CAP), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose acetate succinate (HPMCAS), hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate (HPMCP), polyvinyl acetate phthalate (PVAP), cellulose acetate trimellitate (CAT), metacrylic acid derivatives, and preferably of hydroxypropyl methylcellulose phthalate.

4. Preparation according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that it is a tablet, capsule, granule or pellet, preferably a tablet.

5. Preparation according to any one of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the salt of dichloromethylene bisphosphonic acid is the disodium salt.

6. Process for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical preparation according to claim 1, **characterized** in that a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of dichloromethylene bisphosphonic acid is combined with a pharmacologically acceptable carrier or other adjuvants, the mixture obtained is made into a drug delivery form, which is coated with a film which dissolves at a pH-value of from 5 to 7.2.

Patentansprüche

1. Arzneimittel zur oralen Verwendung, enthaltend ein pharmakologisch verträgliches Salz der (Dichlormethylen)diphosphonsäure als Wirkstoff, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Mittel in einer Medikamentenabgabeform vorliegt, die mit einem gastroresistenten Film überzogen ist, welcher sich bei einem pH-Wert von 5 bis 7,2 auflöst.

2. Mittel nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Film sich bei einem pH-Wert von 5,0 bis 6,5 auflöst.

3. Mittel nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß der Film aus Celluloseacetatphthalat (CAP), Hydroxypropylmethylcelluloseacetatsuccinat (HPMCAS), Hydroxypropylmethylcellulosephthalat (HPMCP), Polyvinylacetatphthalat (PVAP), Celluloseacetattrimellitat (CAT), Methacrylsäurederivate und vorzugsweise aus Hydroxypropylmethylcellulosephthalat besteht.

4. Mittel nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß es eine Tablette, eine Kapsel, ein Granulat oder ein Kügelchen, vorzugsweise eine Tablette, ist.

5. Mittel nach einem der vorstehenden Ansprüche, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß das Salz der (Dichlormethylen)diphosphonsäure das Dinatriumsalz ist.

6. Verfahren zur Herstellung eines Arzneimittels nach Anspruch 1, dadurch gekennzeichnet, daß ein pharmazeutisch verträgliches Salz der (Dichlormethylen)diphosphonsäure mit einem pharmakologisch verträglichen Träger oder anderen Zusatzstoffen vereint wird, die so erhaltene Mischung in eine Medikamentenabgabeform gebracht wird, welche mit einem Film überzogen wird, der sich bei einem pH-Wert von 5 bis 7,2 auflöst.

Revendications

1. Préparation pharmaceutique pour utilisation orale, contenant comme principe actif un sel acceptable d'un point de vue pharmaceutique de l'acide dichlorométhylènebisphosphonique, caractérisée en ce que la préparation se présente sous une forme assurant la libération du médicament, avec un enrobage gastro-résistant qui se dissout à un pH de 5 à 7,2.

2. Préparation selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que l'enrobage se dissout à un pH de 5,0 à 6,5.

3. Préparation selon la revendication 1, caractérisée en ce que l'enrobage est constitué d'acétophtalate de cellulose (CAP), d'acétosuccinate d'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose (HPMCAS), de phtalate d'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose (HPMCP), de poly(acétophtalate de vinyle) (PVAP), d'acétotrimellitate de cellulose (CAT), de dérivés de l'acide méthacrylique et de préférence de phtalate d'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose.

4. Préparation selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisée en ce qu'elle se présente sous forme d'un comprimé, d'une gélule, d'un granulé ou d'une pastille, de préférence d'un comprimé.

5. Préparation selon l'une quelconque des revendications précédentes, caractérisée en ce que le sel de l'acide dichlorométhylènebisphosphonique est le sel disodique.

6. Procédé de fabrication d'une préparation pharmaceutique selon la revendication 1, caractérisé en ce qu'on combine un sel acceptable d'un point de vue pharmaceutique de l'acide dichlorométhylènebisphosphonique avec un support ou d'autres adjuvants acceptables du point de vue pharmacologique, on transforme le mélange en une forme assurant la libération du médicament, sur lequel on applique un enrobage qui se dissout à un pH de 5 à 7,2.

REGISTER ENTRY FOR EP0637236

European Application No EP93908973.6 filing date 21.04.1993

Priority claimed:
24.04.1992 in Sweden - doc: 9201299

PCT EUROPEAN PHASE
PCT Application PCT/FI93/00166 Publication No WO93/21907 on 11.11.1993

Designated States BE CH DE DK ES FR GB GR IE IT LI LU MC NL PT SE AT

Title PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION AND PROCESS FOR ITS MANUFACTURE.

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Classified to
A61K

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Publication No EP0637236 dated 08.02.1995
Publication in English

Examination requested 18.10.1994

Patent Granted with effect from 09.10.1996 (Section 25(1)) with title
PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATION AND PROCESS FOR ITS MANUFACTURE

12.04.1996 Notification from EPO of change of EPO Representative details from
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to
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Entry Type 25.14 Staff ID. RD06 Auth ID. EPT

**** END OF REGISTER ENTRY ****

RENEWAL DETAILS

PUBLICATION NUMBER EP0637236

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DATE FILED 21.04.1993

DATE GRANTED 09.10.1996

DATE NEXT RENEWAL DUE 21.04.1997

DATE NOT IN FORCE

DATE OF LAST RENEWAL

YEAR OF LAST RENEWAL 00

STATUS PATENT IN FORCE

**** END OF REPORT ****