



US 20050025791A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Remenar et al.(10) **Pub. No.: US 2005/0025791 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Feb. 3, 2005**(54) **PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS WITH
IMPROVED DISSOLUTION**(76) Inventors: **Julius Remenar**, Framingham, MA
(US); **Matthew Peterson**, Framingham,
MA (US); **Orn Almarsson**, Shrewsbury,
MA (US); **Hector Guzman**, Jamaica
Plain, MA (US); **Hongming Chen**,
Acton, MA (US); **Mark Tawa**, West
Roxbury, MA (US); **Mark Oliveira**,
Framingham, MA (US)Correspondence Address:
Transform Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
29 Hartwell Avenue
Lexington, MA 02421-3102 (US)(21) Appl. No.: **10/601,092**(22) Filed: **Jun. 20, 2003****Related U.S. Application Data**(60) Provisional application No. 60/390,881, filed on Jun.
21, 2002. Provisional application No. 60/426,275,filed on Nov. 14, 2002. Provisional application No.
60/427,086, filed on Nov. 15, 2002. Provisional appli-
cation No. 60/429,515, filed on Nov. 26, 2002. Pro-
visional application No. 60/437,516, filed on Dec. 30,
2002. Provisional application No. 60/456,027, filed
on Mar. 18, 2003.**Publication Classification**(51) **Int. Cl.⁷ A61K 9/00**
(52) **U.S. Cl. 424/400**(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to methods of screening mixtures containing a pharmaceutical compound and an excipient to identify properties of the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination that retard solid-state nucleation. The invention further relates to increasing the solubility, dissolution and bioavailability of a drug with low solubility in gastric fluids conditions by combining the drug with a recrystallization/precipitation retardant and an optional enhancer.

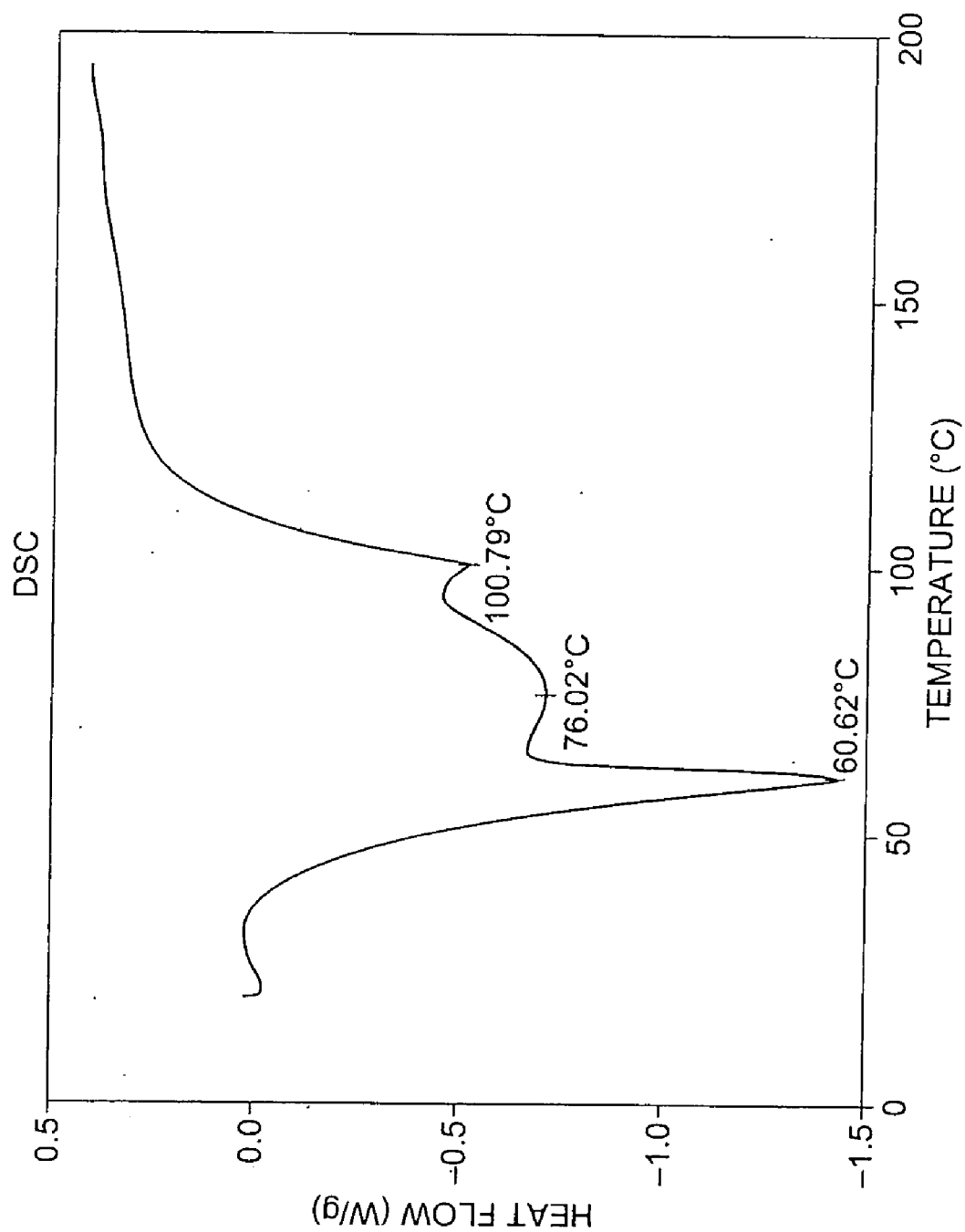


FIG. 1

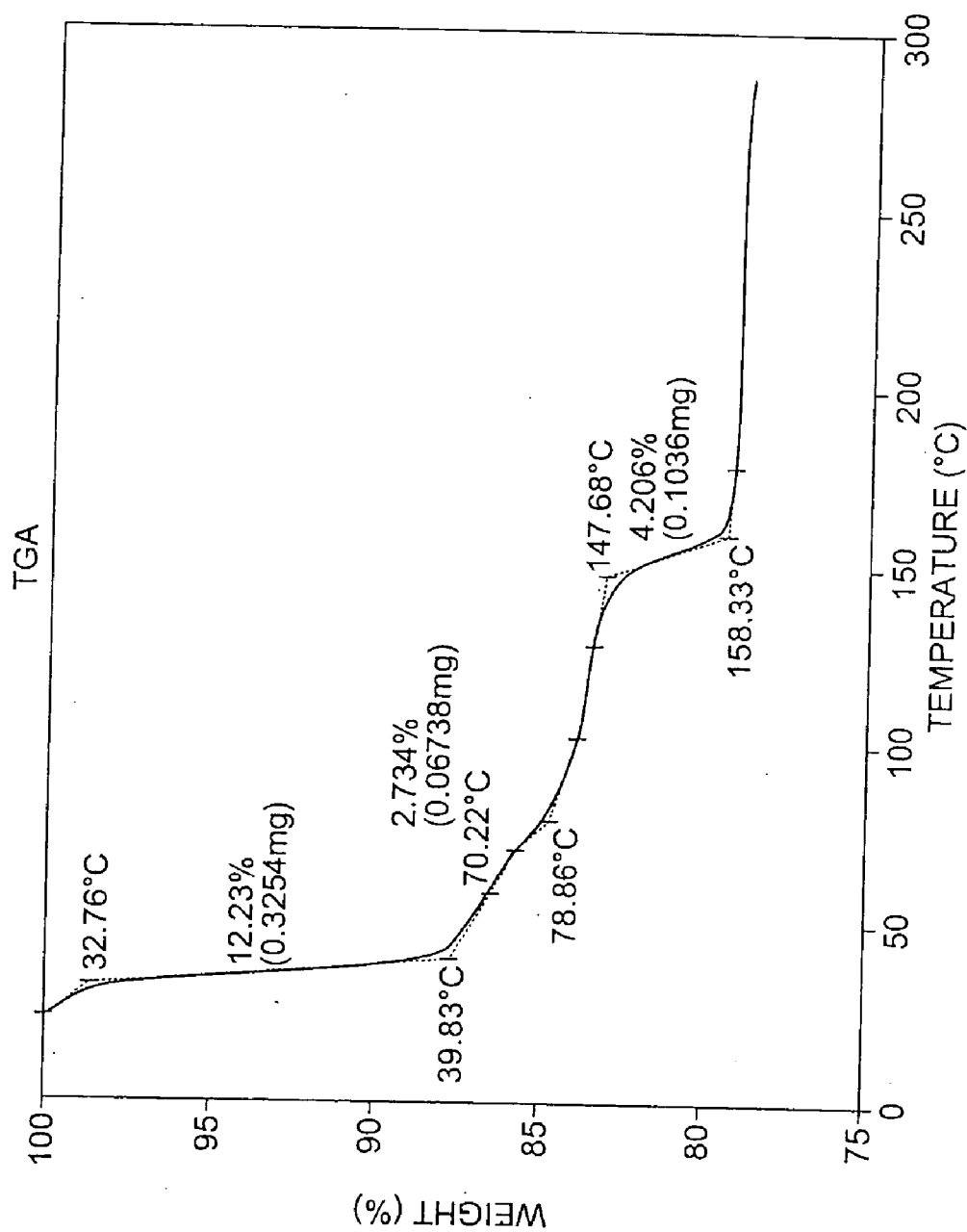


FIG. 2

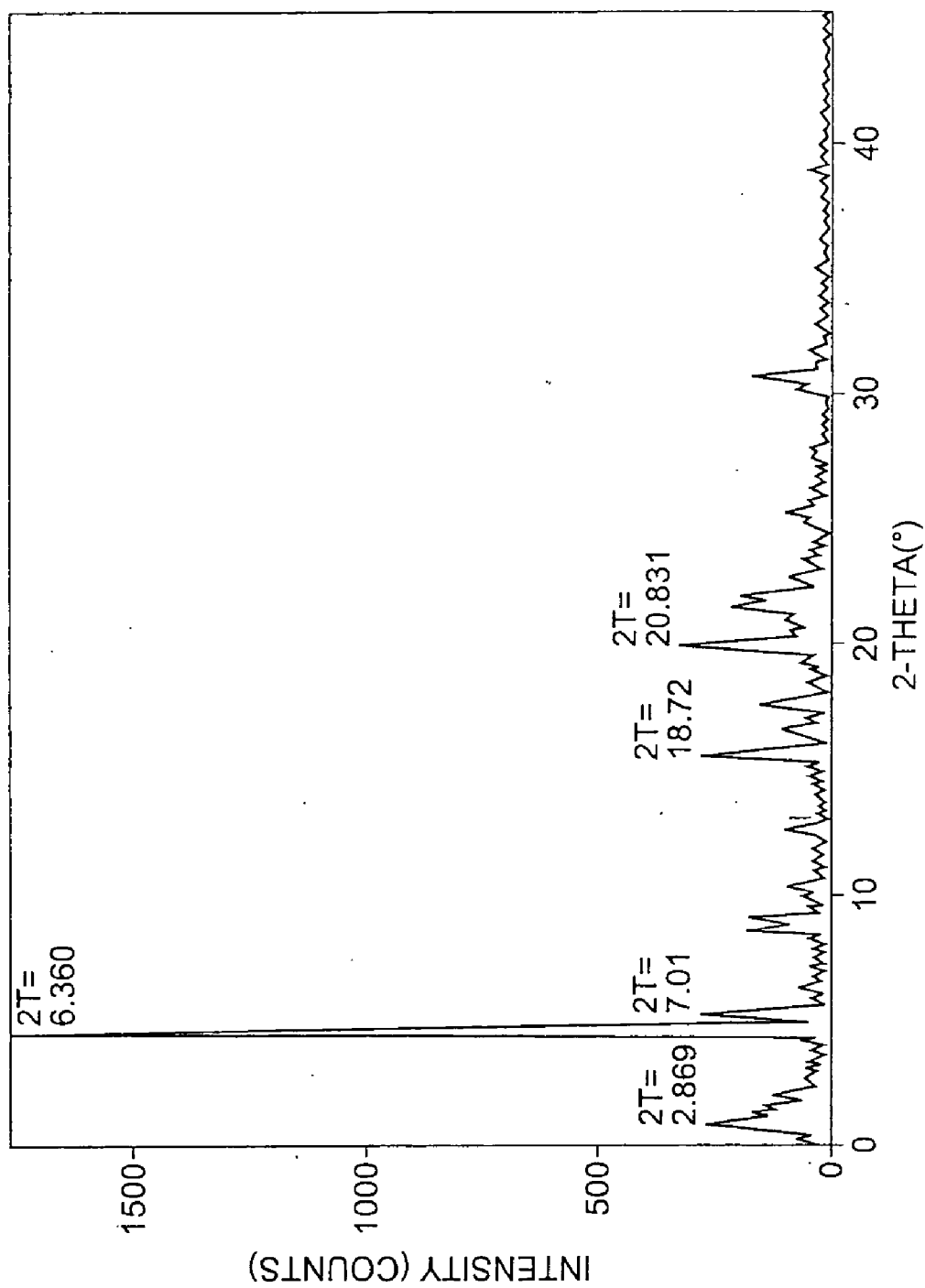


FIG. 3

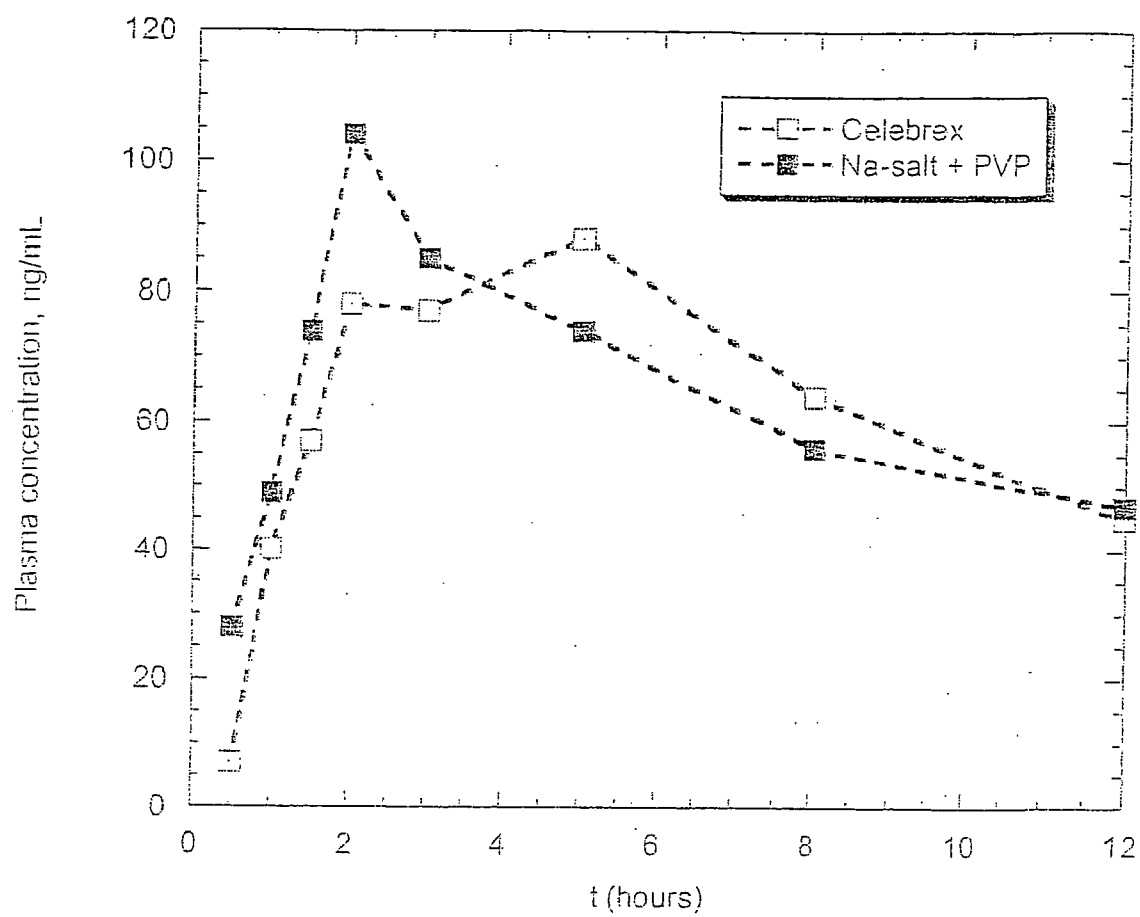


FIG. 4A

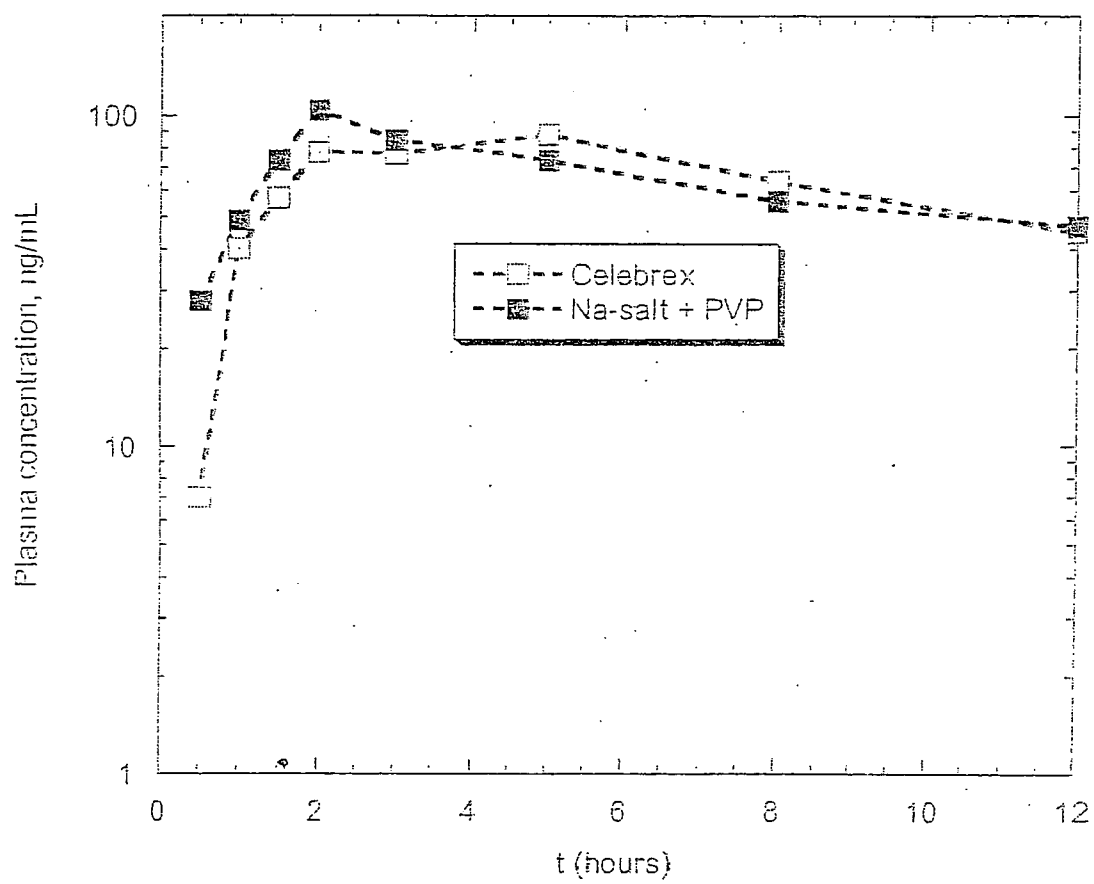


FIG. 4B

	Formulation	Dose Level (mg/kg)	C _{max} (ng/mL)	T _{max} (min)	AUC (0-∞) (ng·hr/mL)	T _{1/2} (hr)	Volume of Distribution at Steady State (mL/kg)	Clearance Rate (mL/hr·kg)	Bioavailability (%)
Mean	Celecoxib IV	1	718	NA	3808	8.21	2498	278	NA
SD		NA	91	NA	933	2.85	590	77	NA
Mean	Celecoxib PO	5.09	654	1.25	7663	9.3	NA	798	40.05
SD		0.050	199	0.88	3119	3.48	NA	317	15.45
Mean	Celecoxib Sodium PO	5.05	2142	0.75	16426	9.0	NA	323	85.80
SD		0.121	569	0.27	4150	2.71	NA	77	7.82

FIG. 5

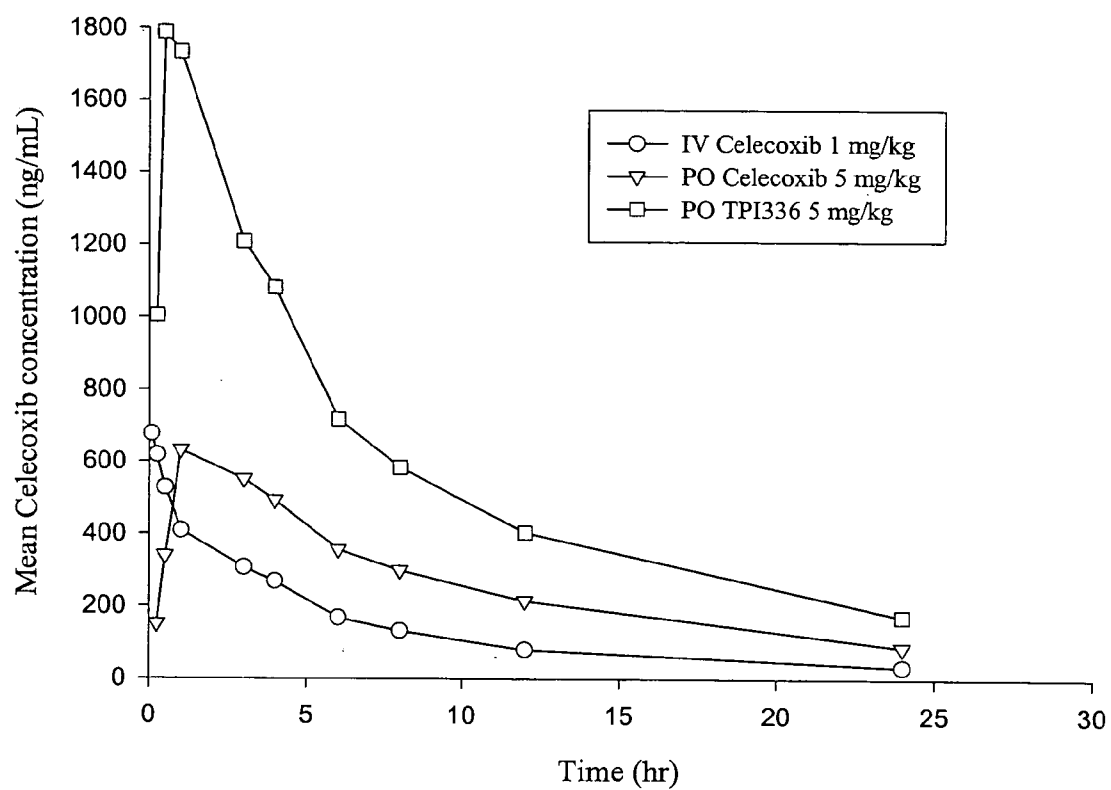
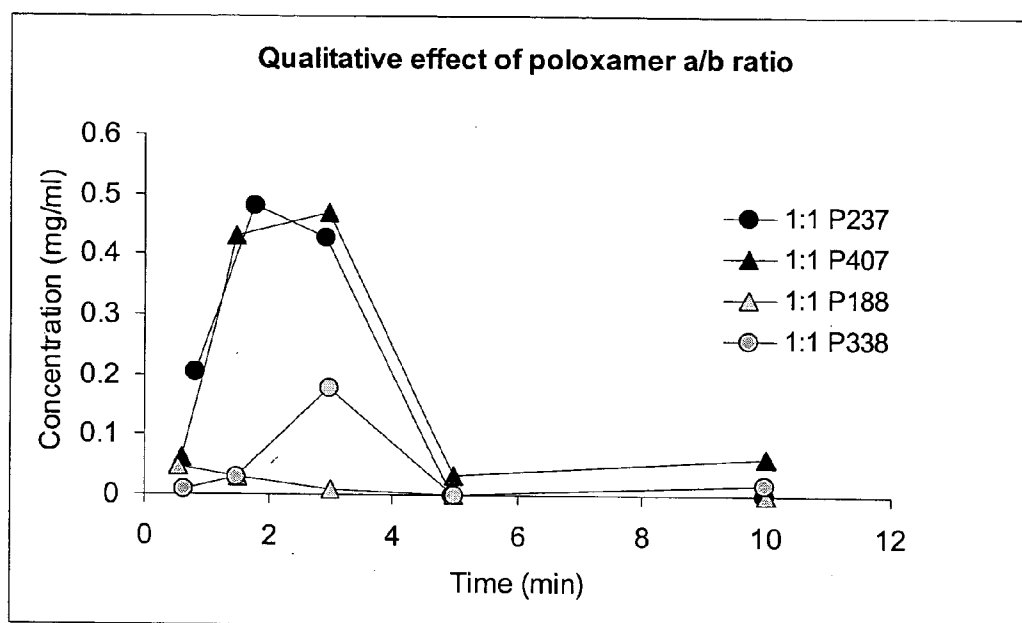


FIGURE 6



Poloxamer	Physical form	a	b	Average molecular weight	Percent a	Percent b	Ratio a/b
124	Liquid	12	20	2090-2360	0.38	0.63	0.60
188	Solid	80	27	7680-9510	0.75	0.25	2.96
237	Solid	64	37	6840-8830	0.63	0.37	1.73
338	Solid	141	44	12 700-17 400	0.76	0.24	3.20
407	Solid	101	56	9840-14 600	0.64	0.36	1.80

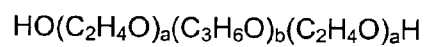


FIGURE 7

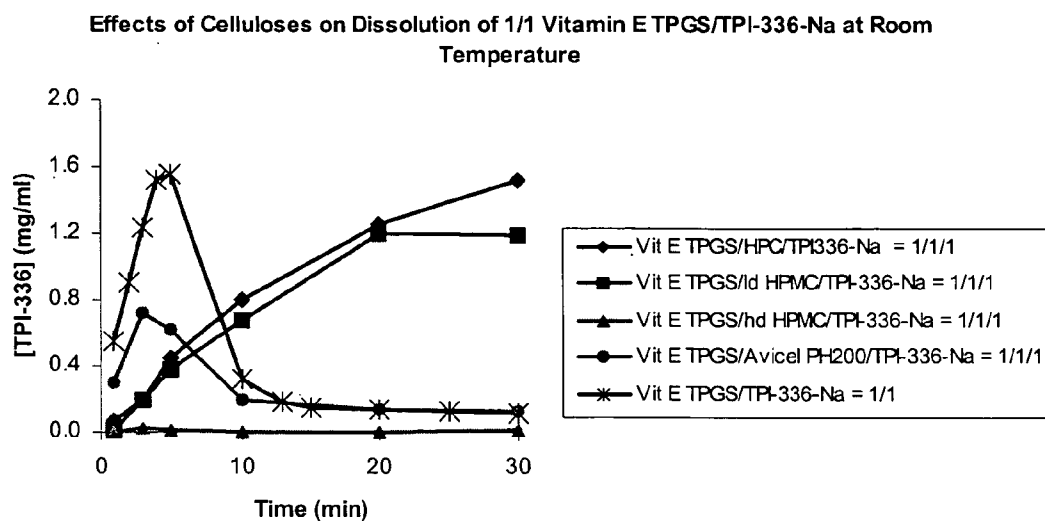


FIGURE 8

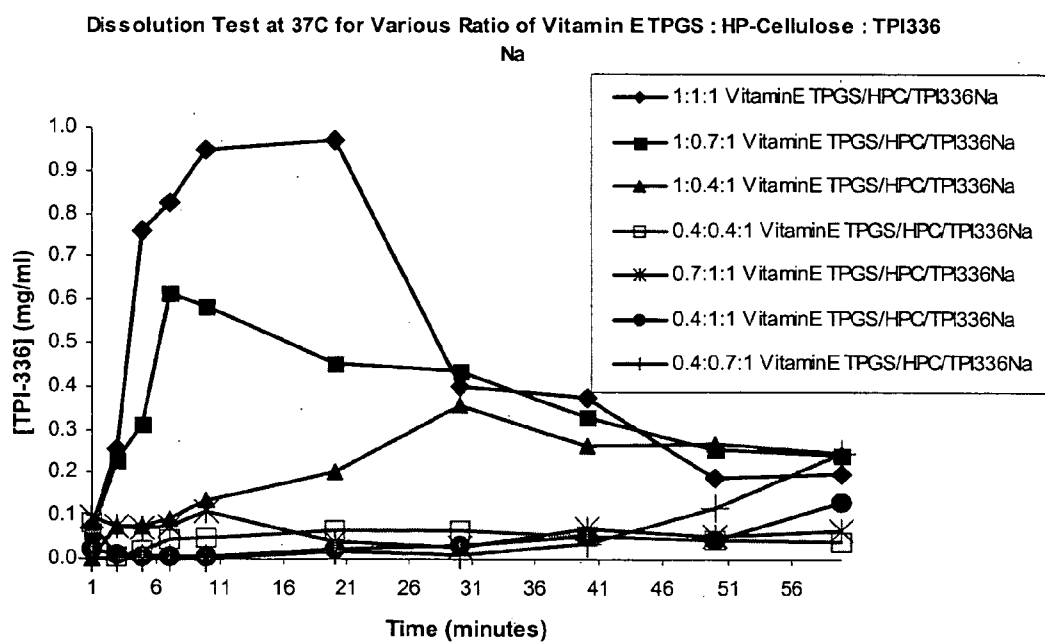


FIGURE 9

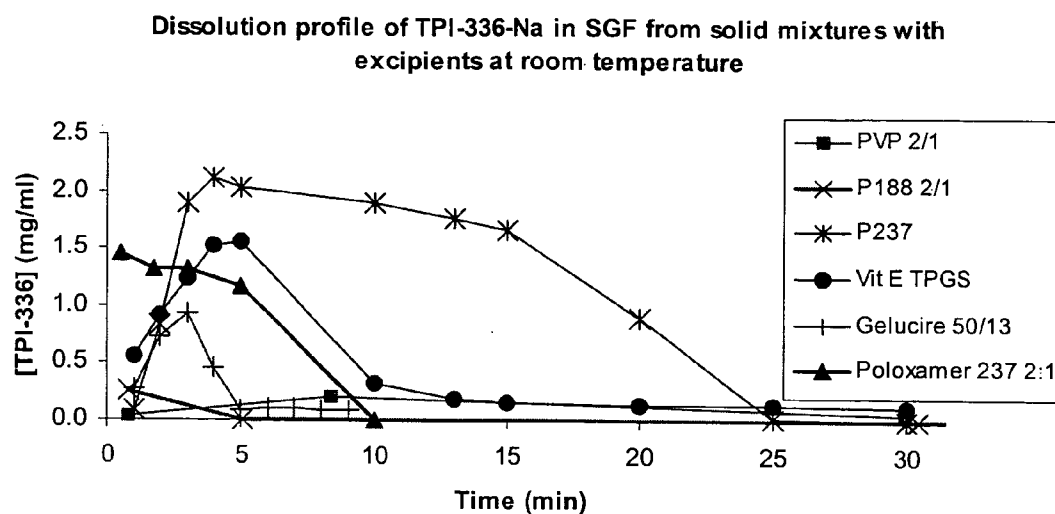


FIGURE 10

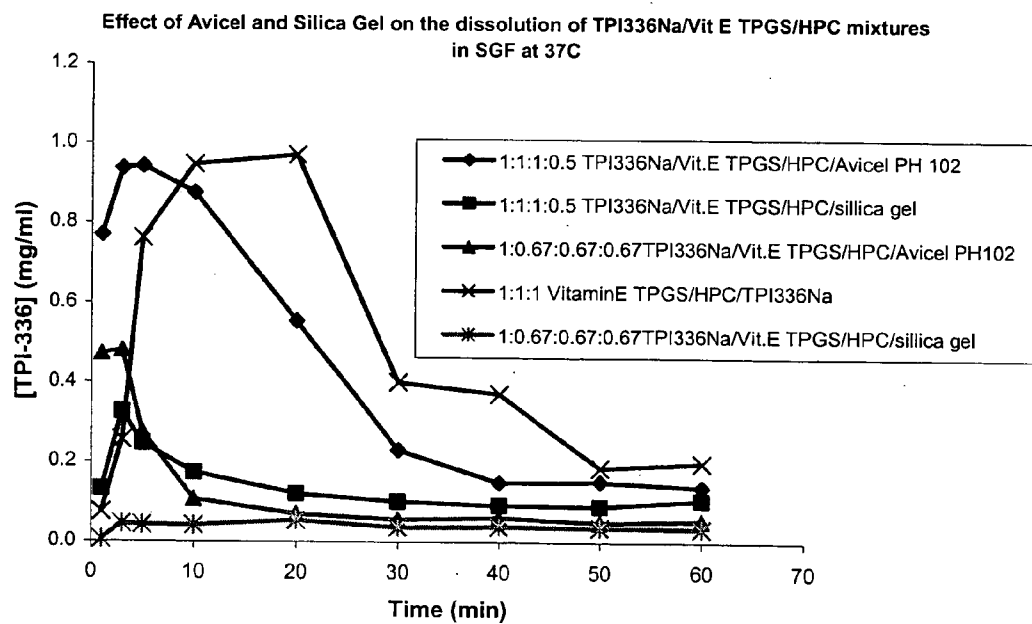


FIGURE 11

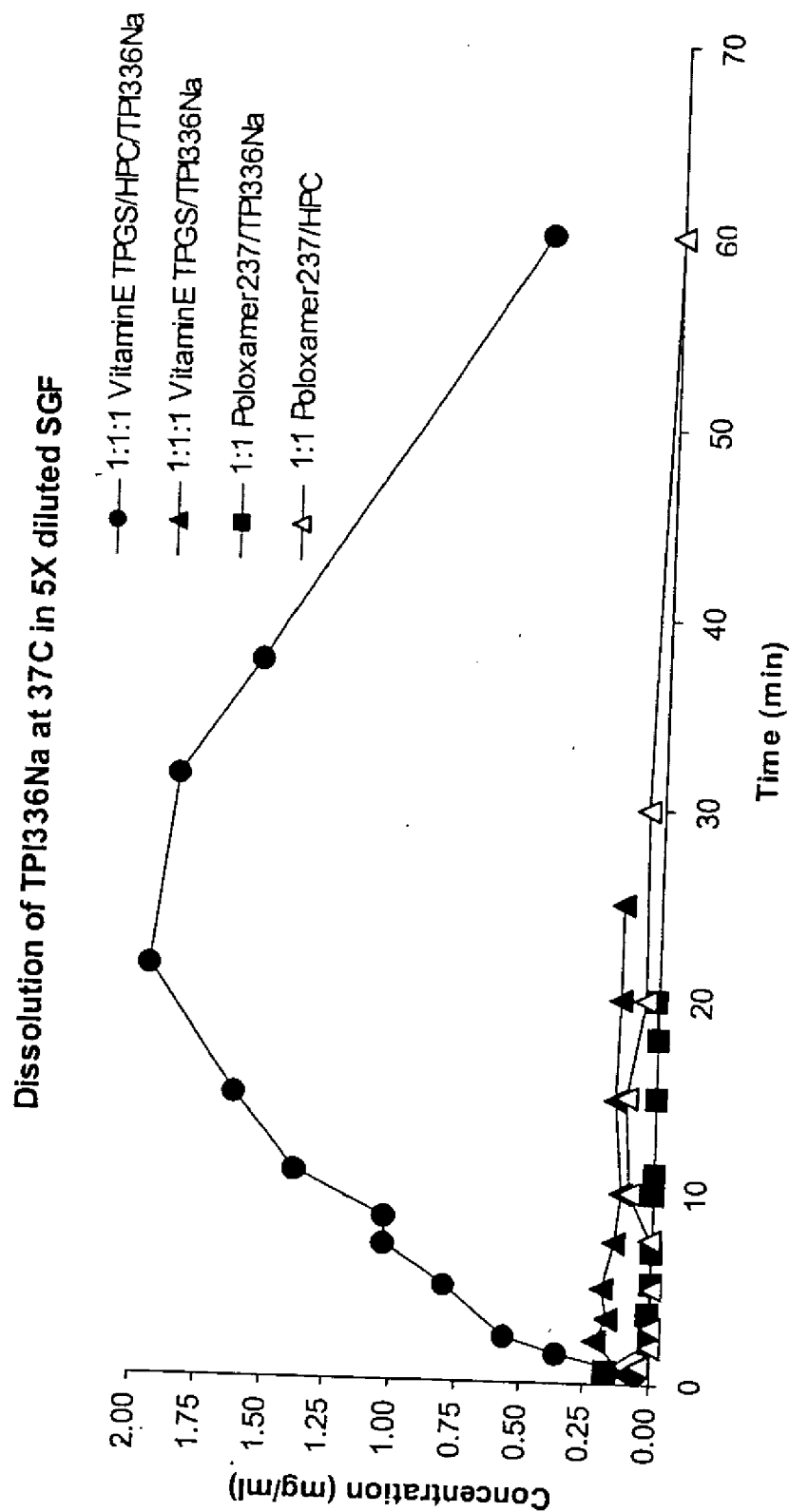


FIGURE 12

FIGURE 13A

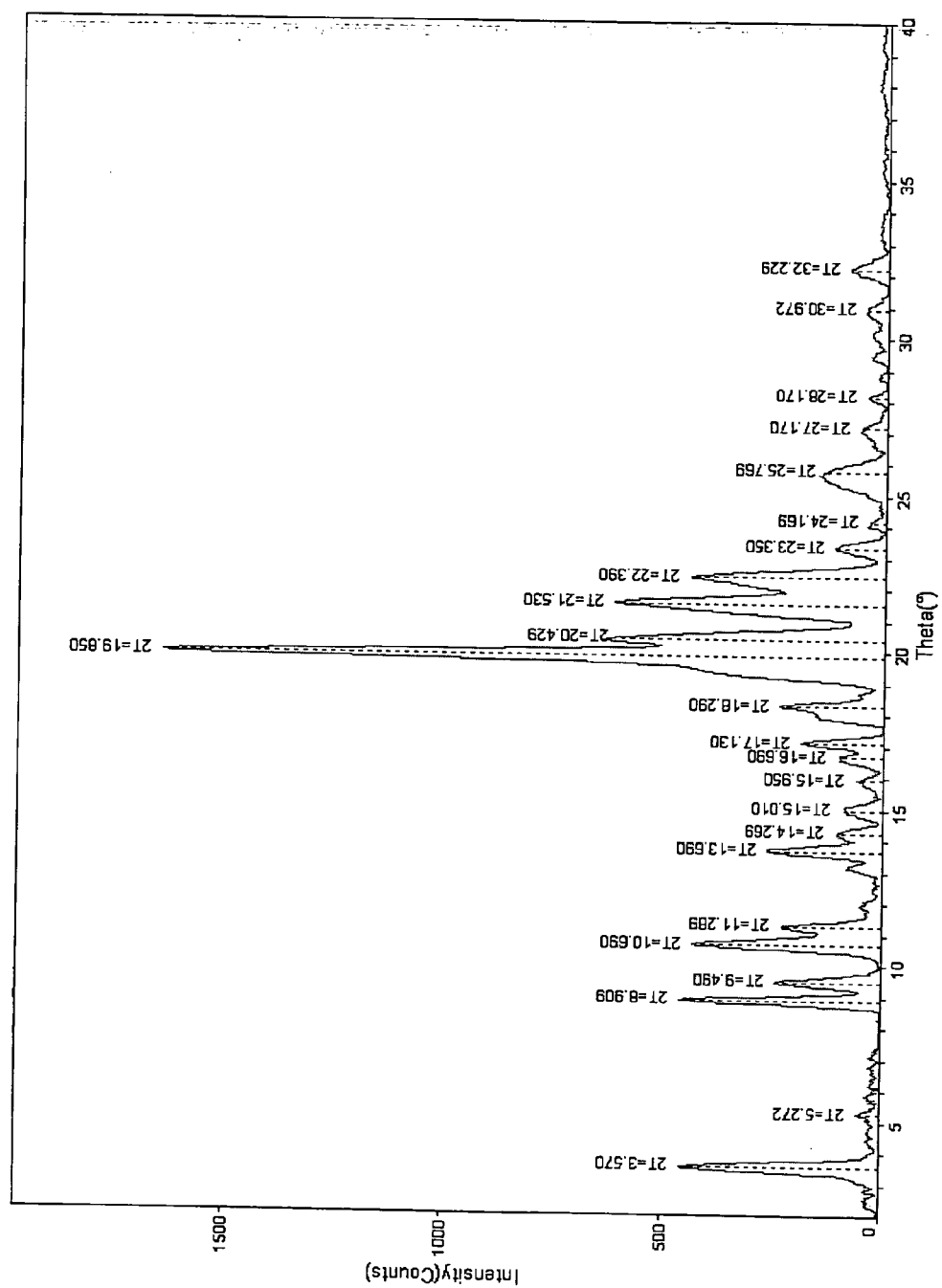
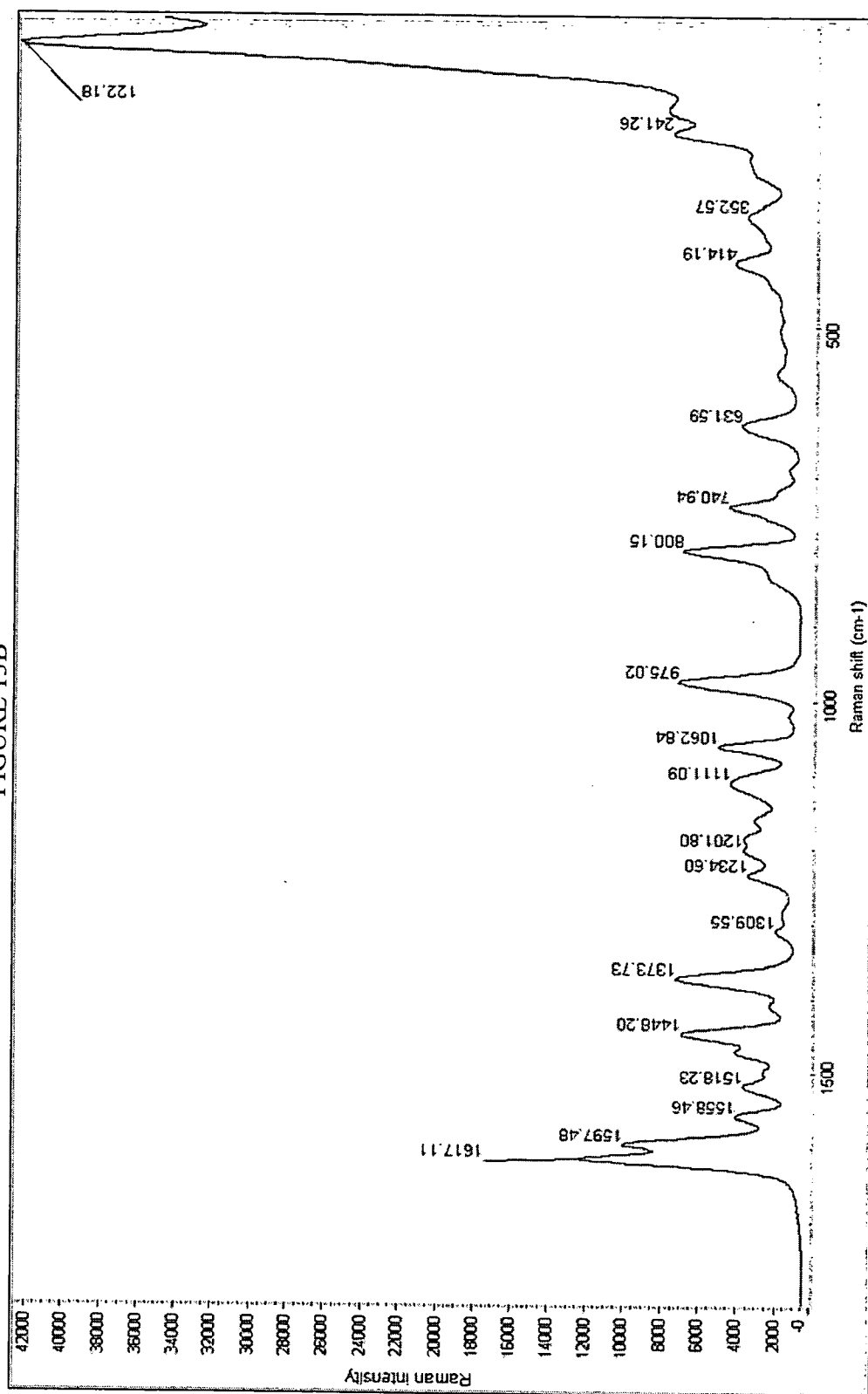


FIGURE 13B



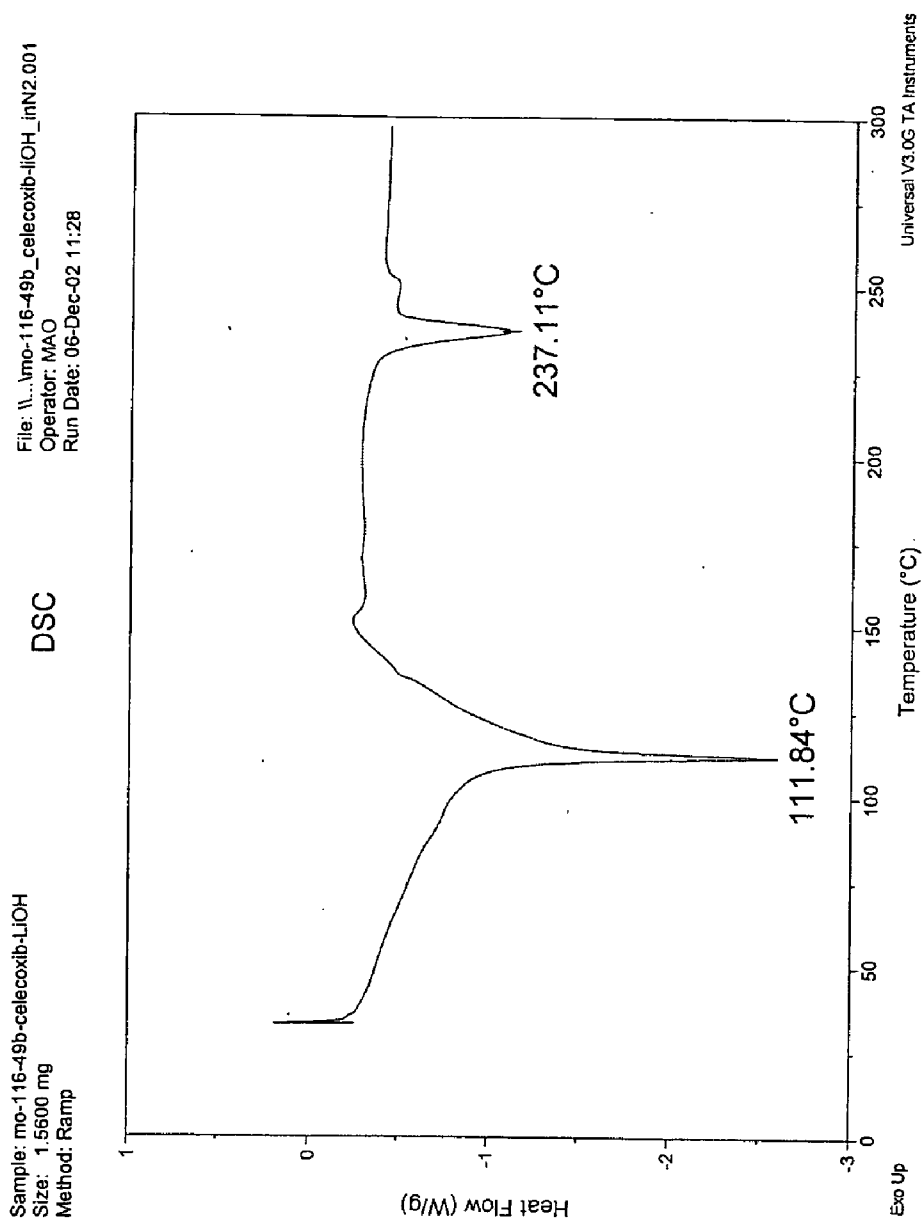


FIGURE 14

Sample: MO-116-49b_celecoxib-Li
Size: 8.2290 mg
Method: Ramp

TGA

File: \\...MarkOlmo-116-49b_celecoxib-Li.001
Operator: MAO
Run Date: 06-Dec-02 16:36

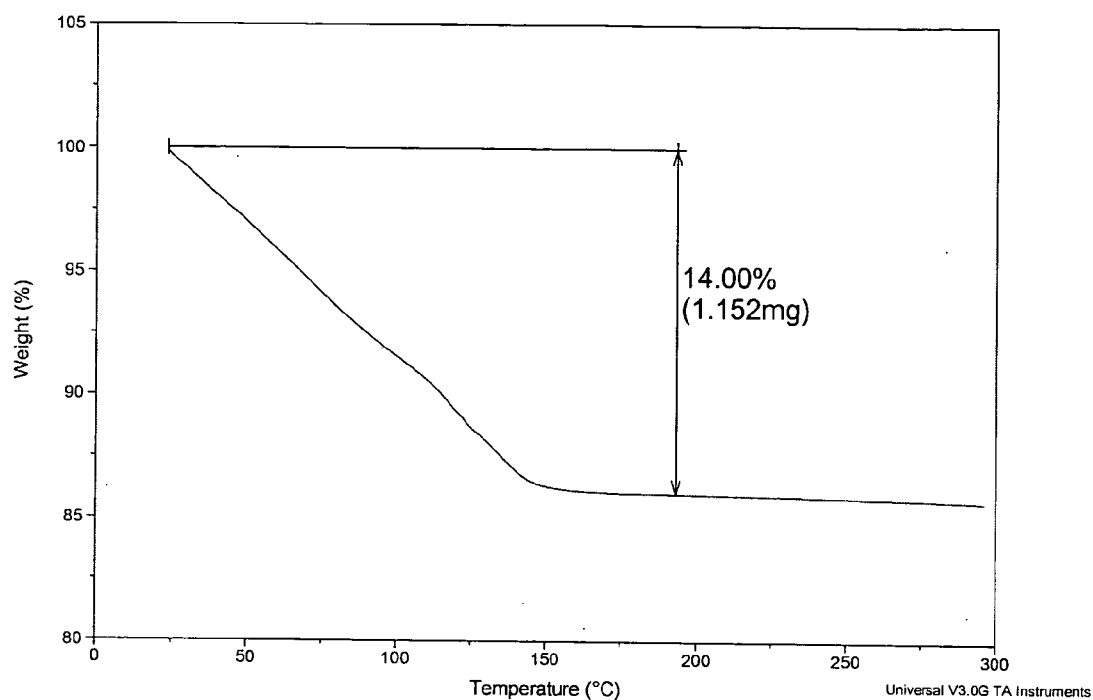


FIGURE 15

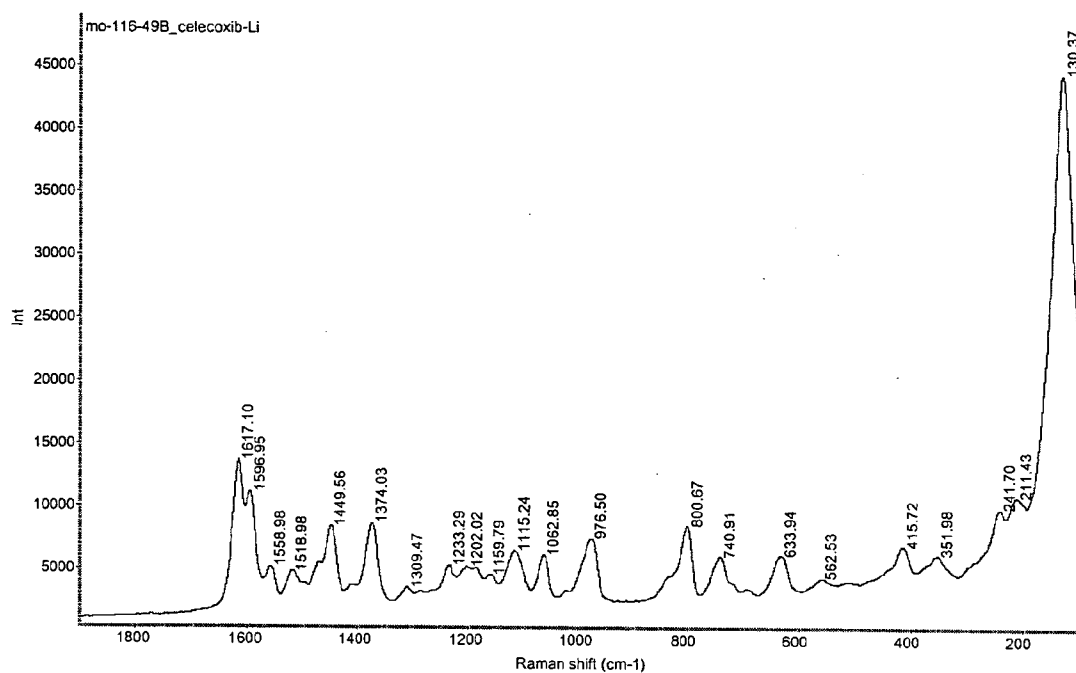


FIGURE 16

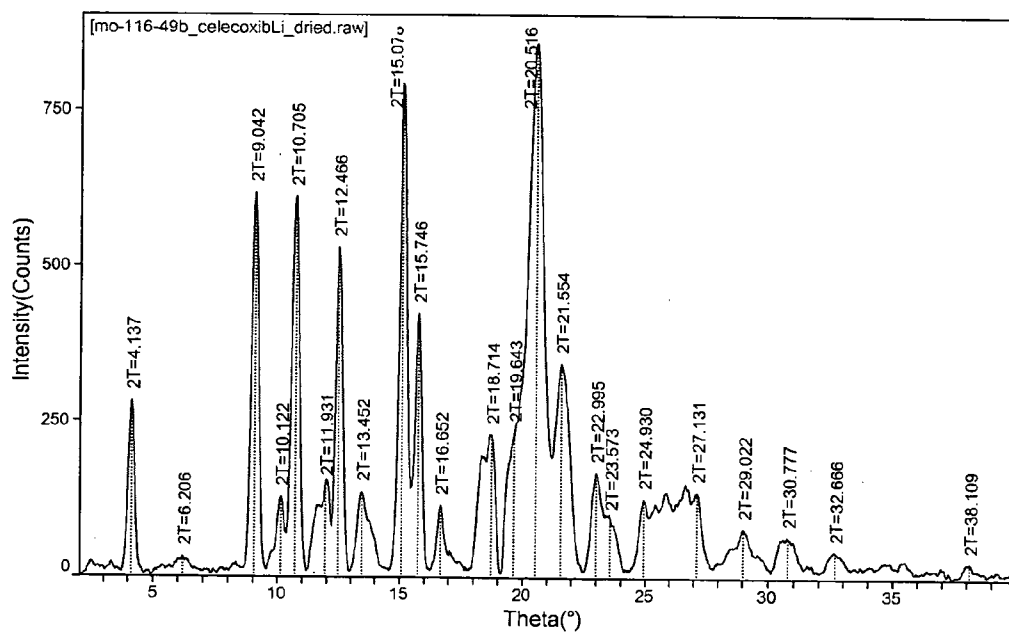


FIGURE 17

Sample: m0-116-49a-celecoxib-KOH
Size: 1.1190 mg
Method: Ramp

DSC

File: \\...\\mo-116-49a_celecoxib-KOH_inN2.001
Operator: MAO
Run Date: 06-Dec-02 10:55

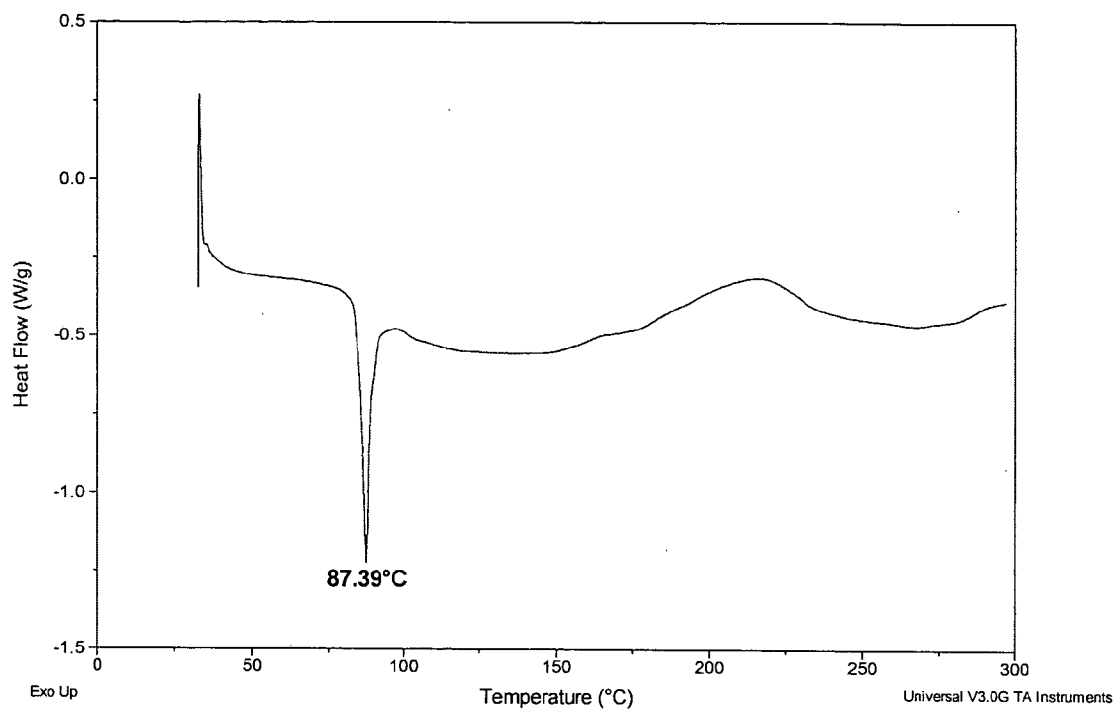


FIGURE 18

Sample: MO-116-49a_celecoxib-K
Size: 5.9890 mg
Method: Stepwise isothermal

TGA

File: \\...\\MarkO\\mo-116-49a_celecoxib-K.001
Operator: MAO
Run Date: 06-Dec-02 11:35

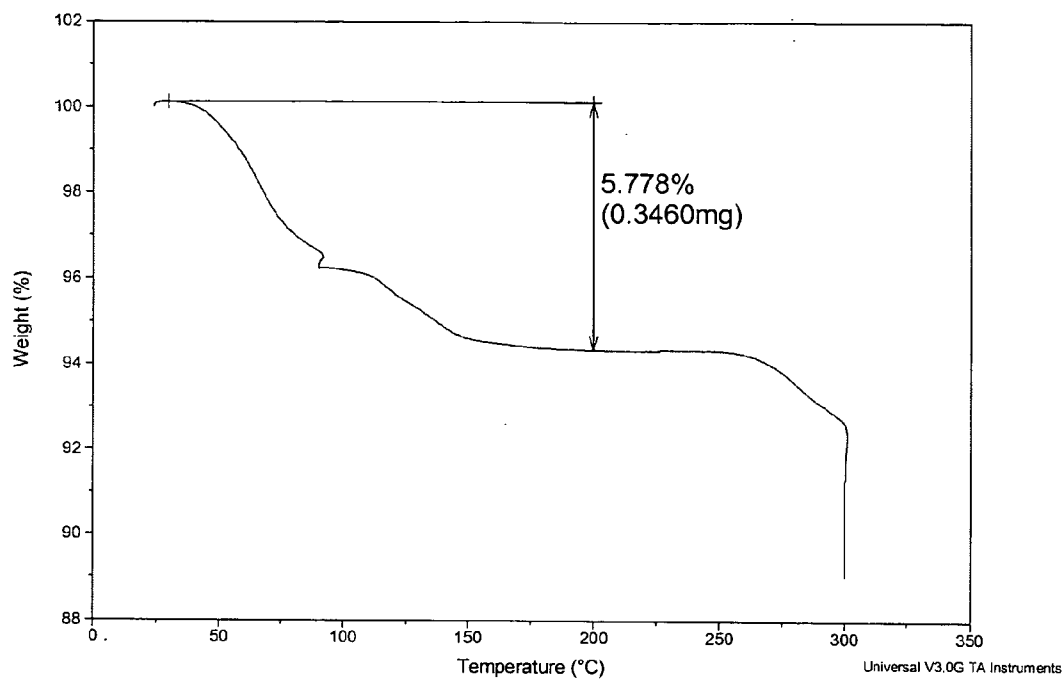


FIGURE 19

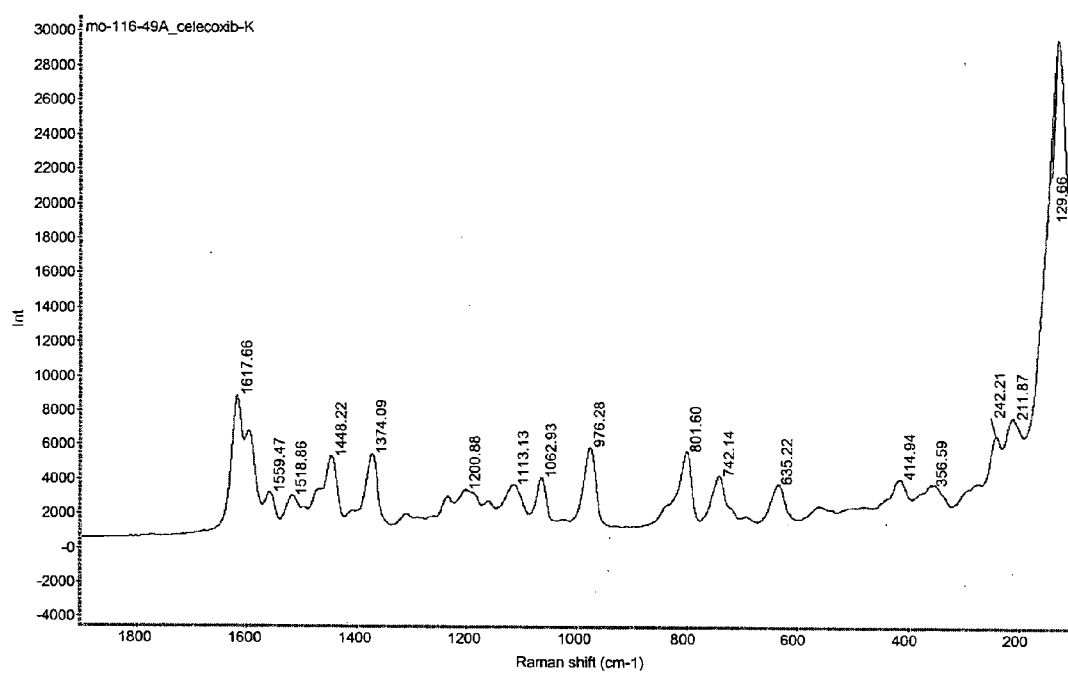


FIGURE 20

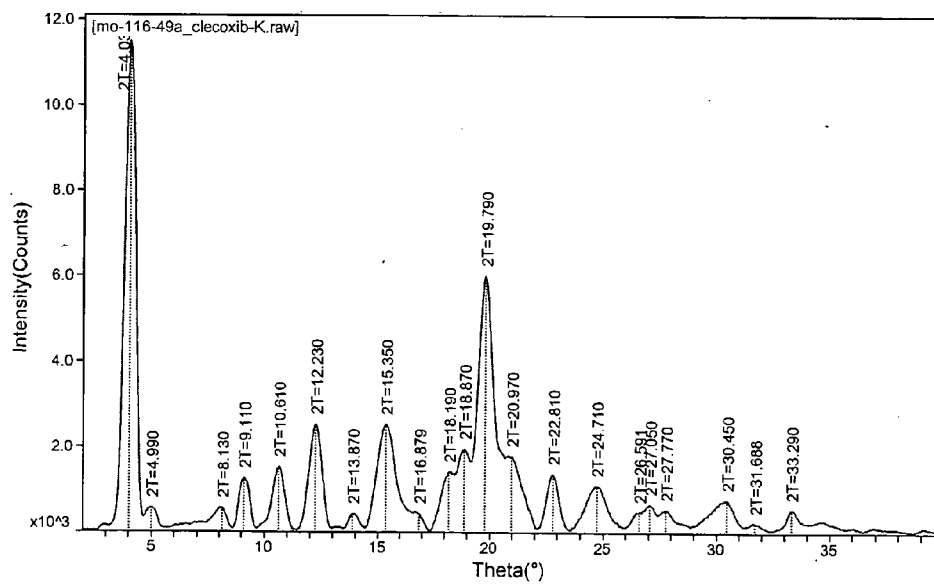


FIGURE 21

Sample: MO-116-55D_celecoxib-K

Size: 5.4470 mg

Method: Ramp

Comment: Residue from bottom phase, dried in nitrogen for 2 days

TGA

File: mo-116-55D_celecoxibK_bottom phase re...

Operator: MAO

Run Date: 13-Dec-02 11:50

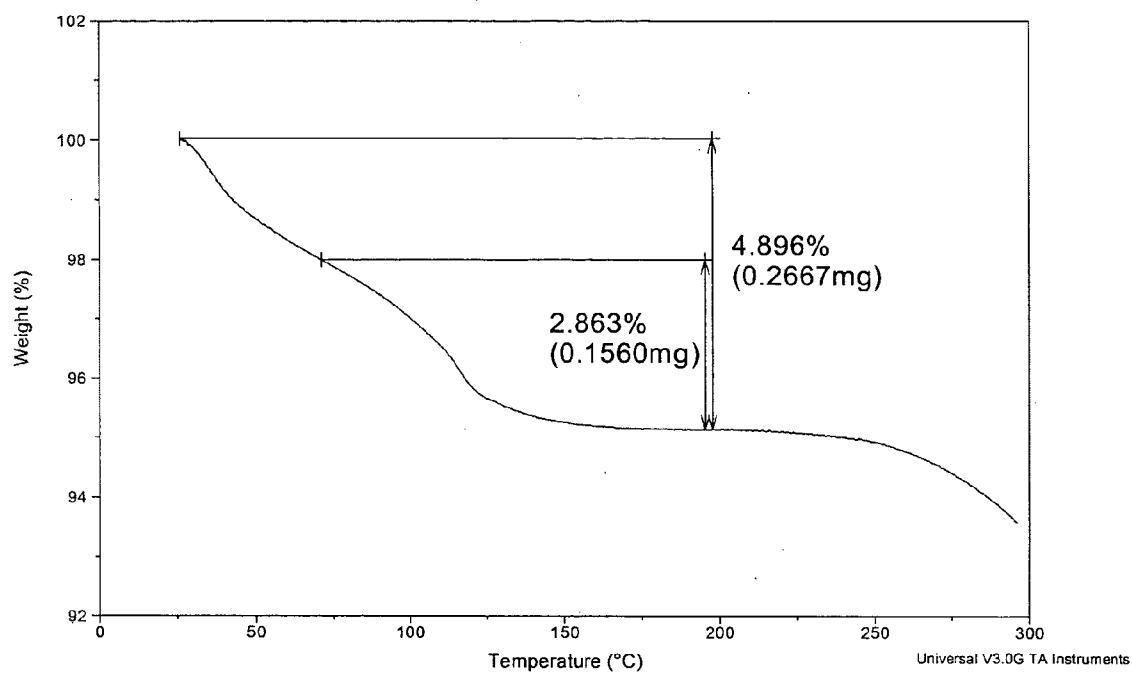


FIGURE 22

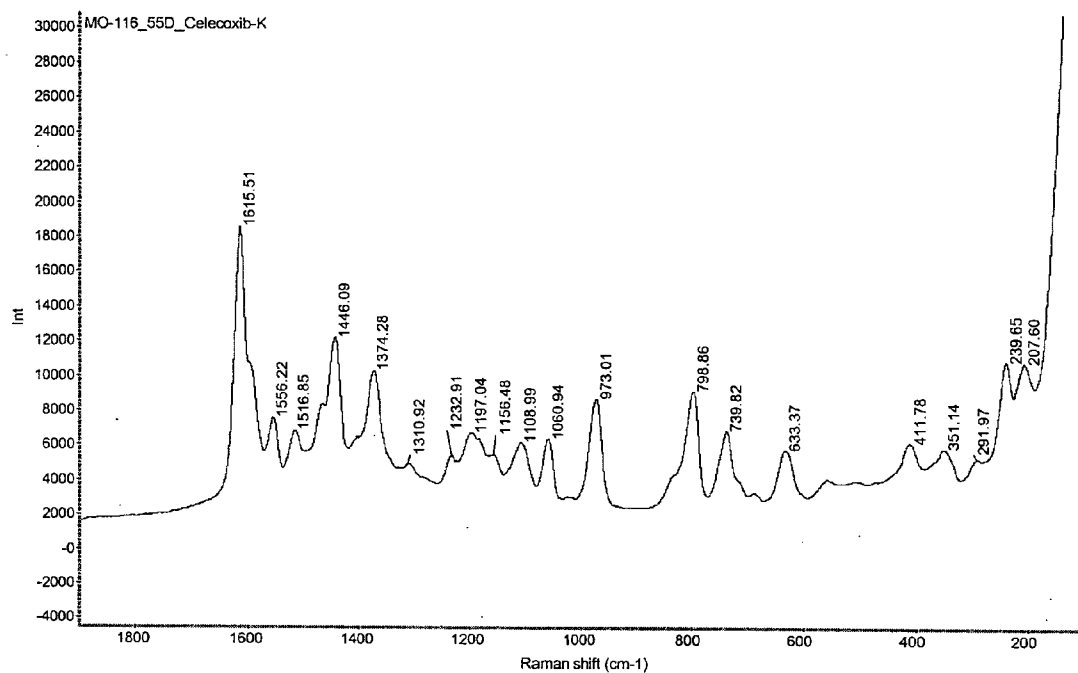


FIGURE 23

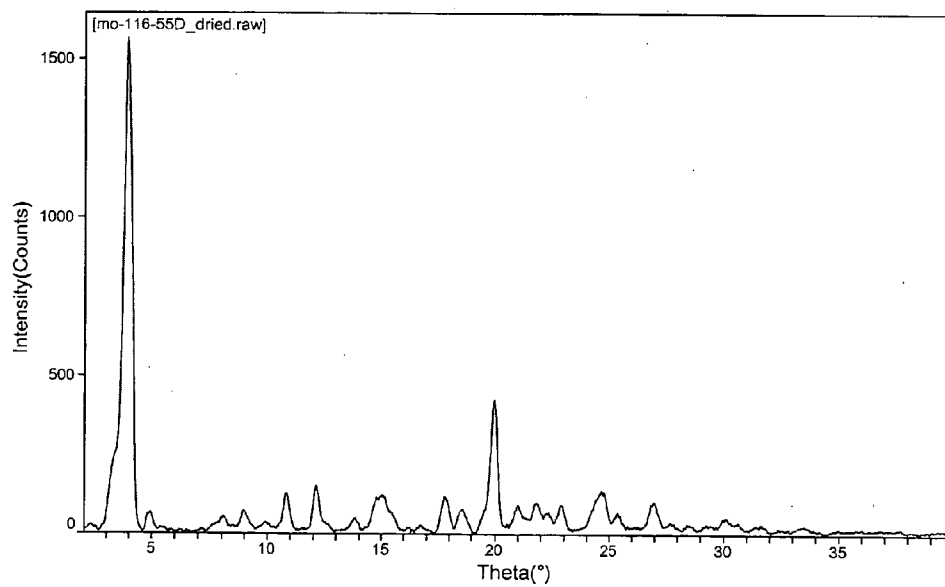


FIGURE 24

Sample: celecoxib-Ca_dried
Size: 3.4140 mg
Method: Ramp
Comment: dried in N2 overnight

TGA

File: V:\mo-11-62A_celecoxib-Ca.003
Operator: MAO
Run Date: 18-Dec-02 11:26

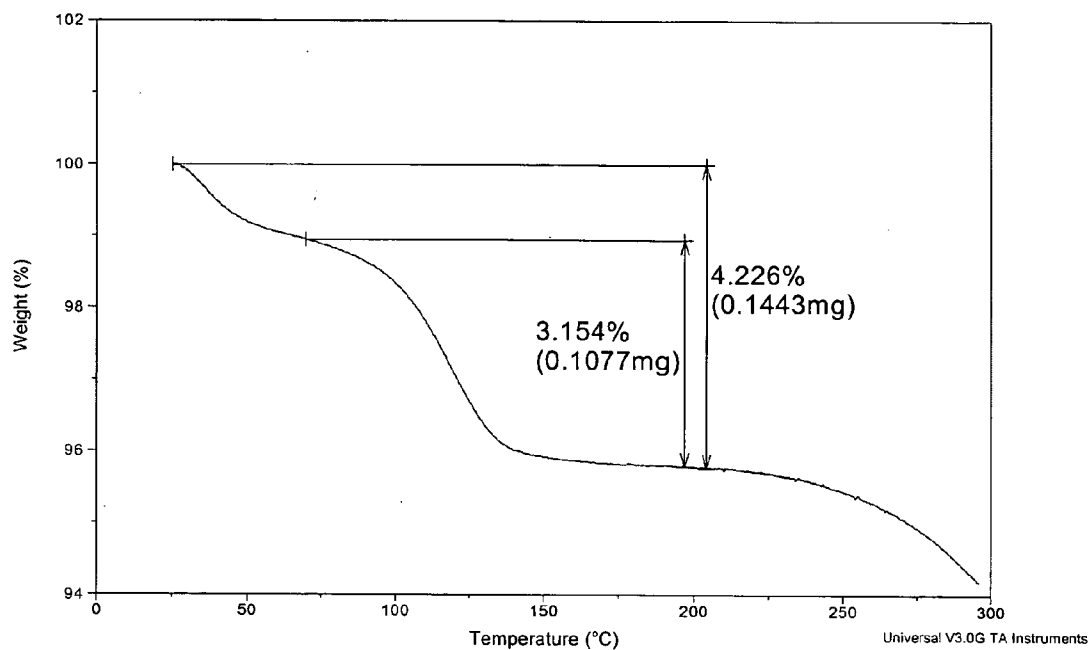


FIGURE 25

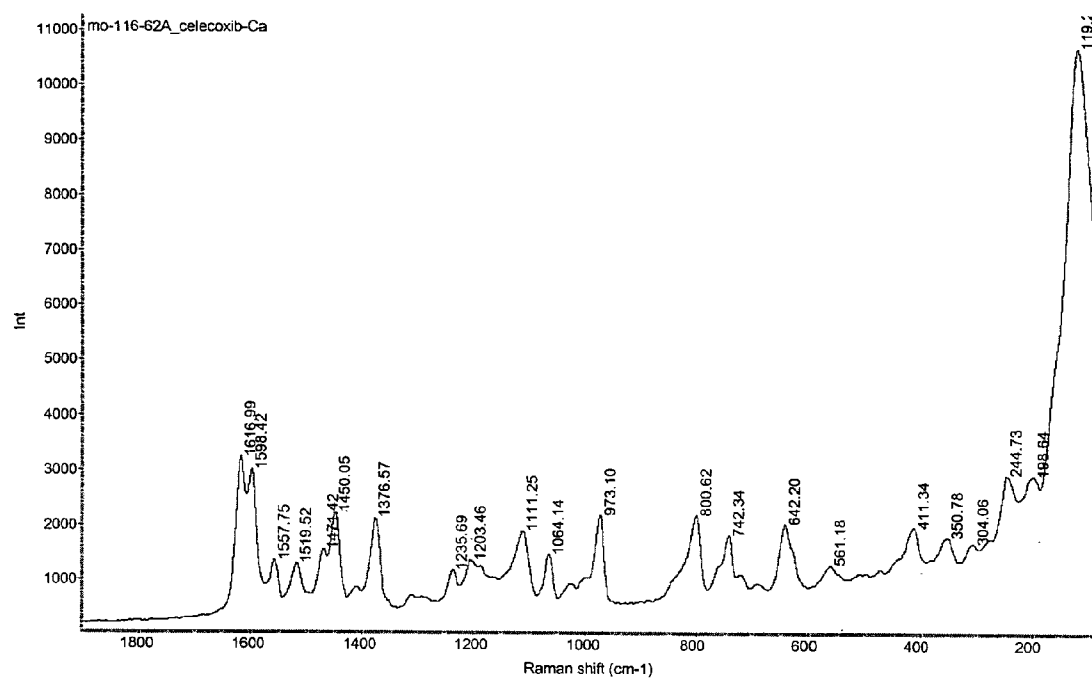


FIGURE 26

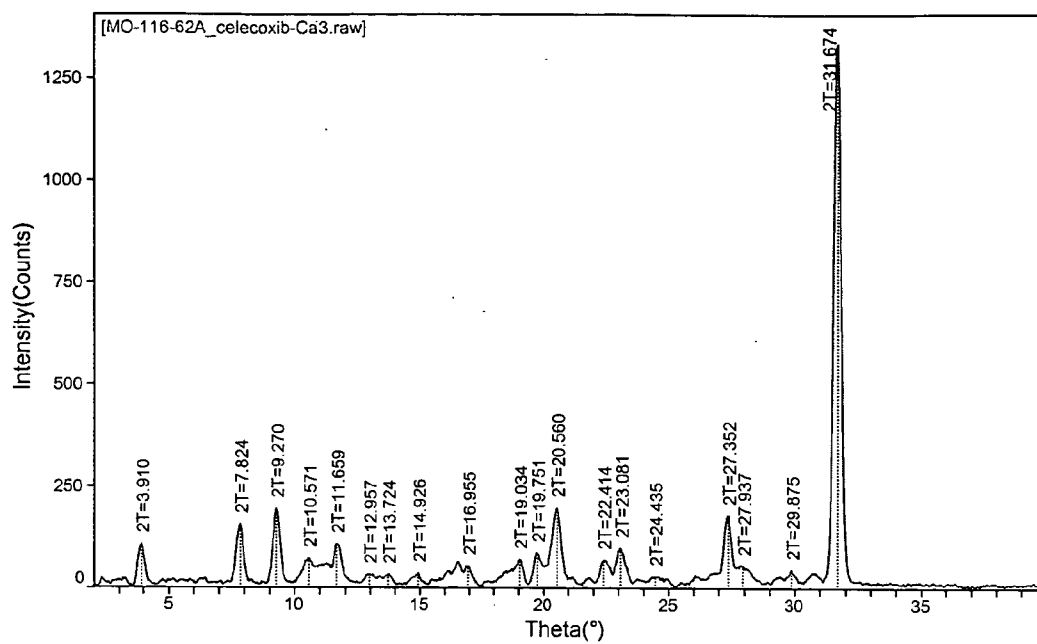


FIGURE 27

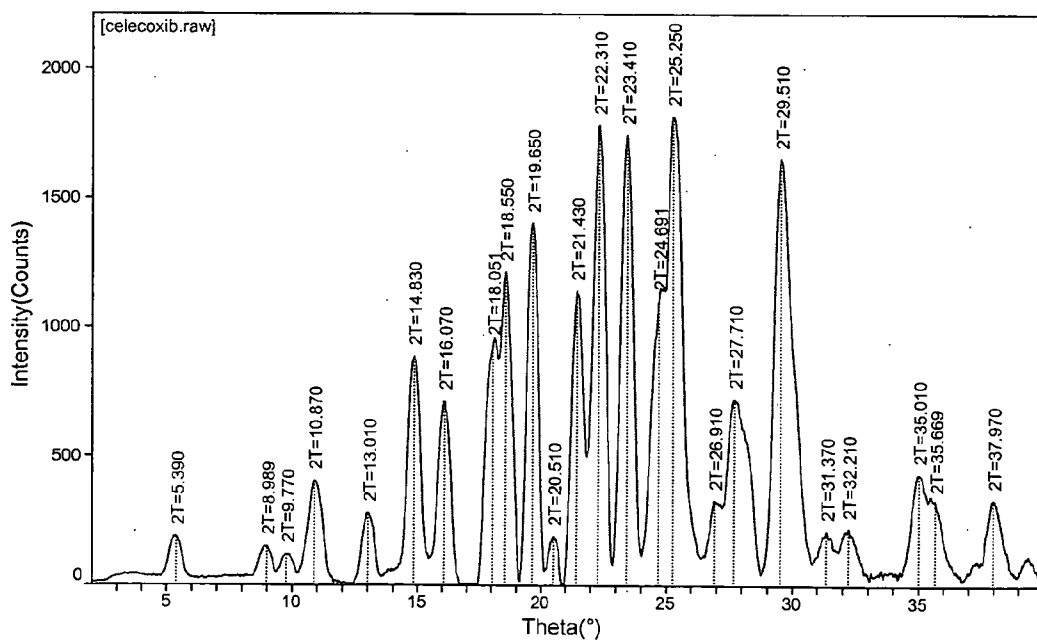


FIGURE 28

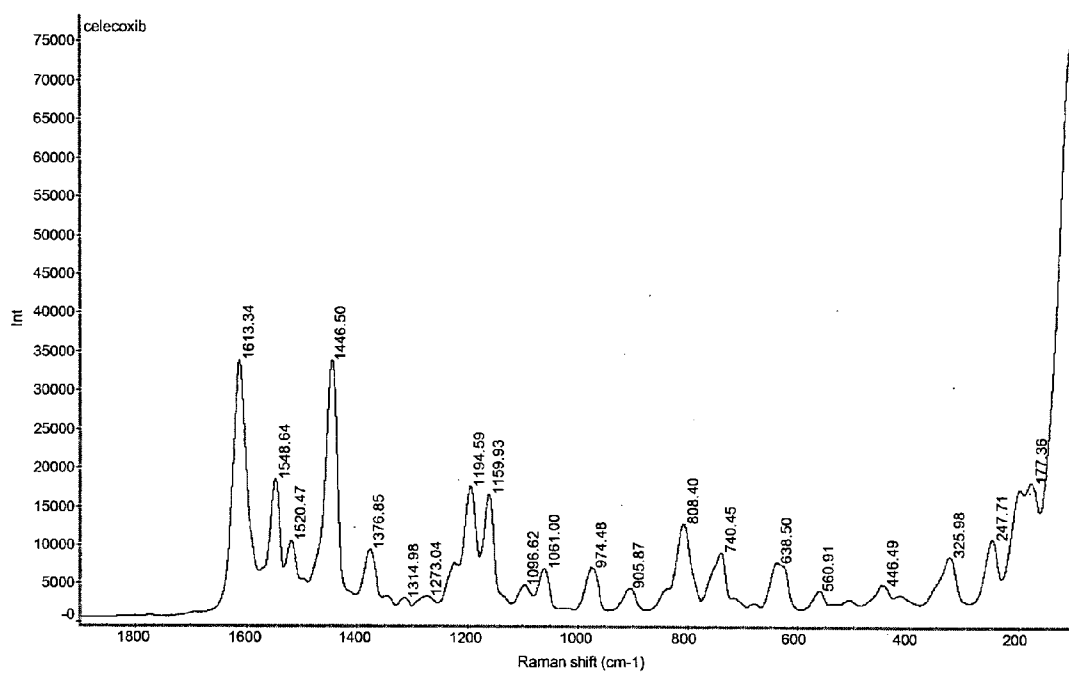


FIGURE 29

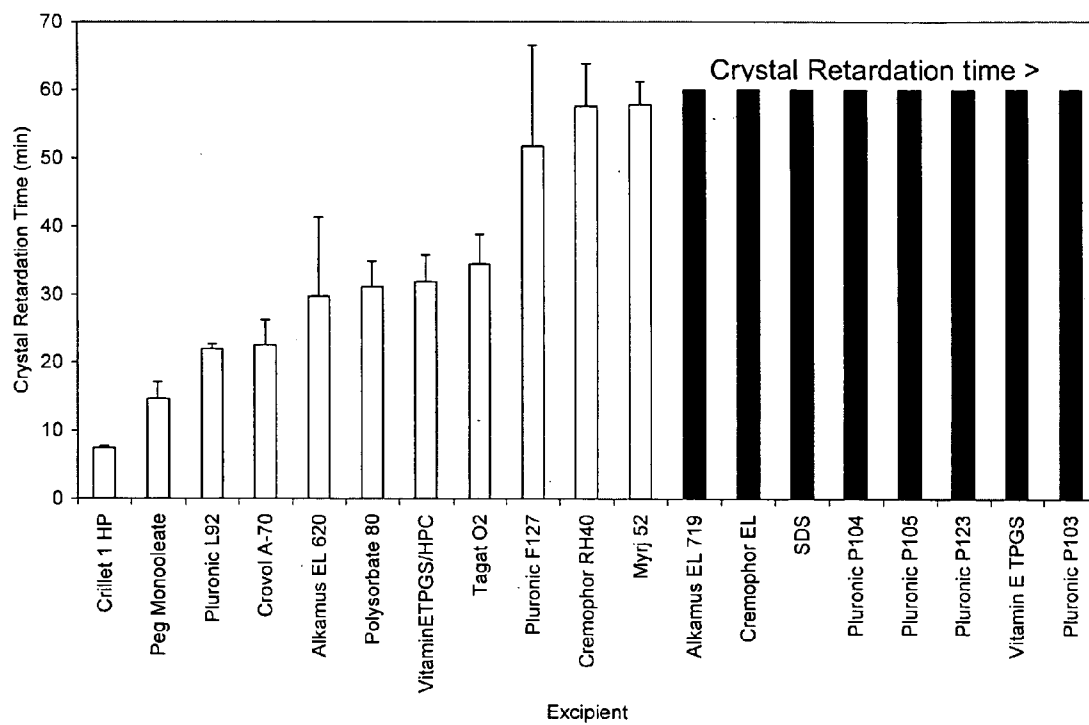


FIGURE 30

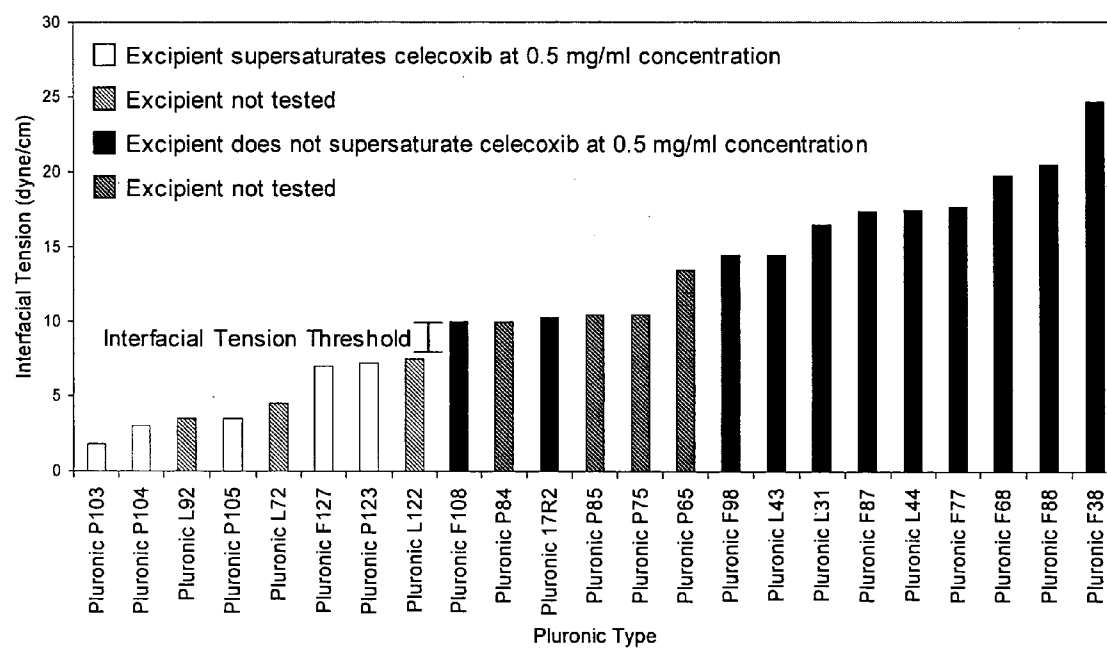
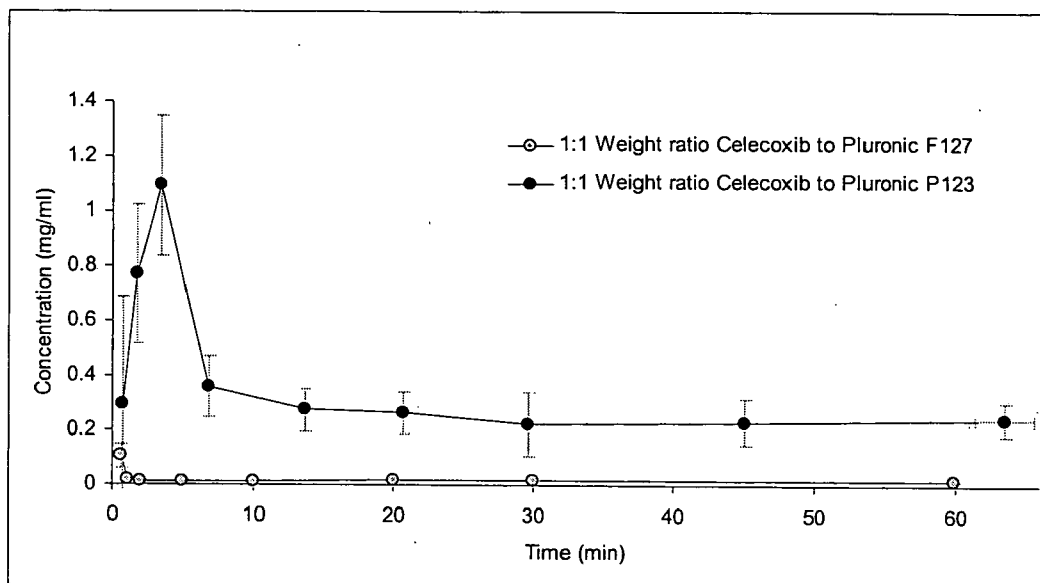
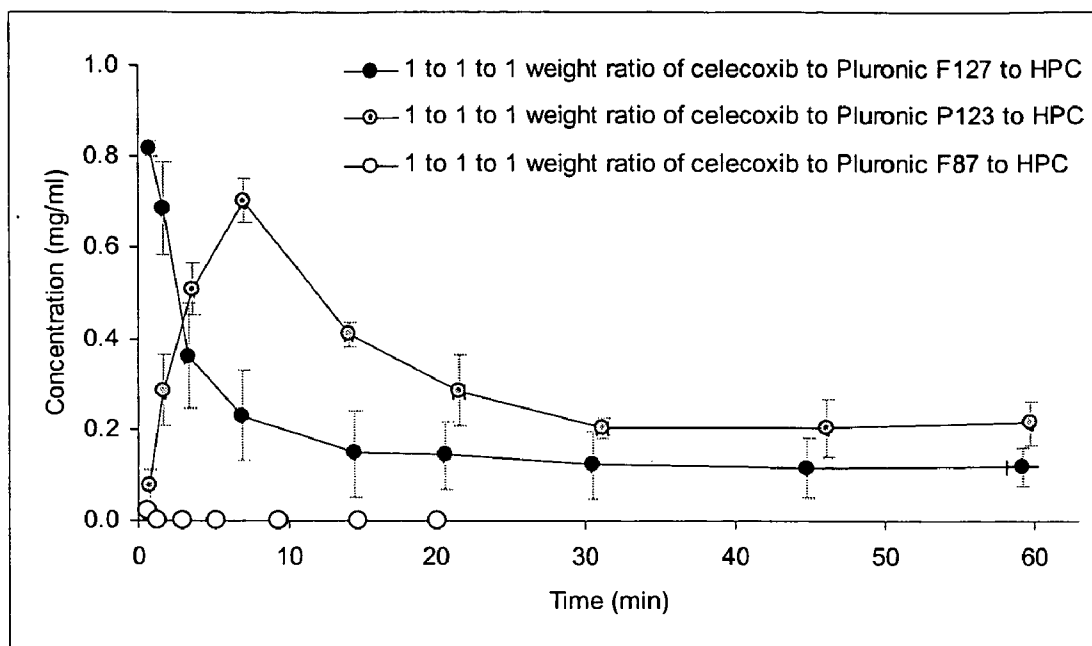
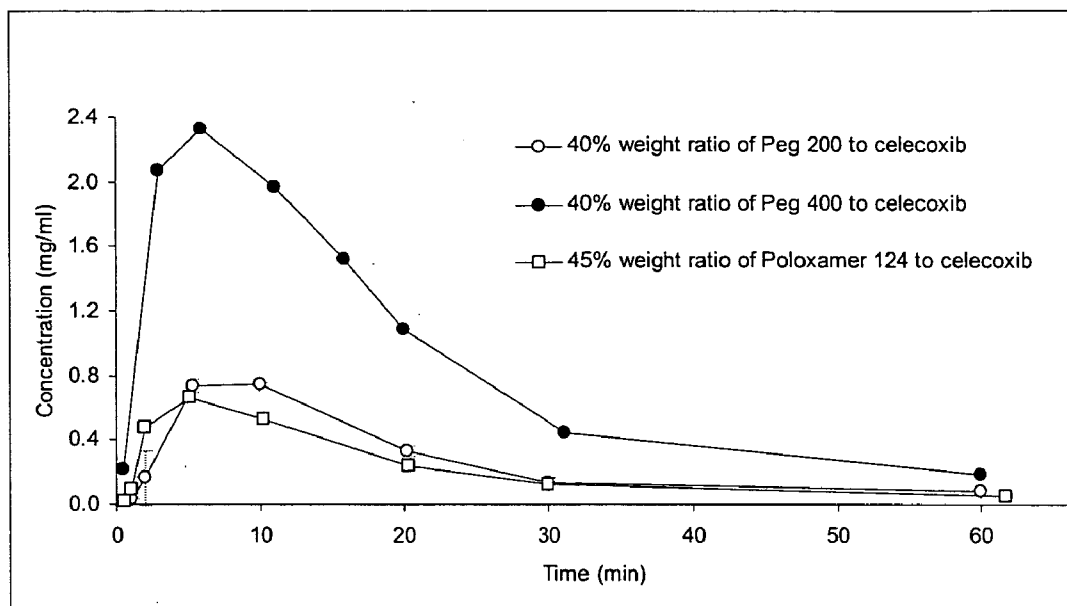


Figure 31

**Figure 32**

**Figure 33**

**Figure 34**

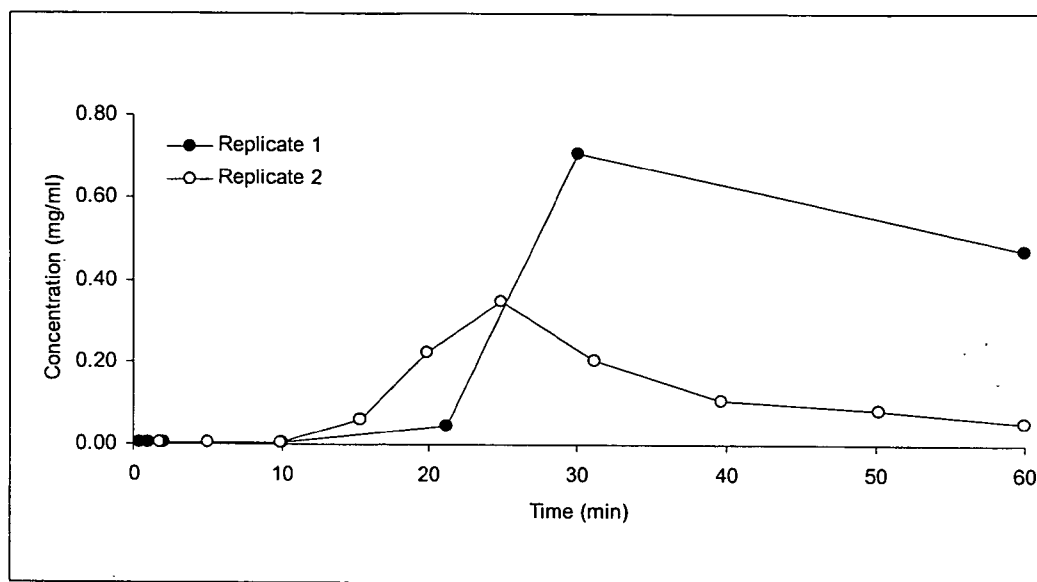
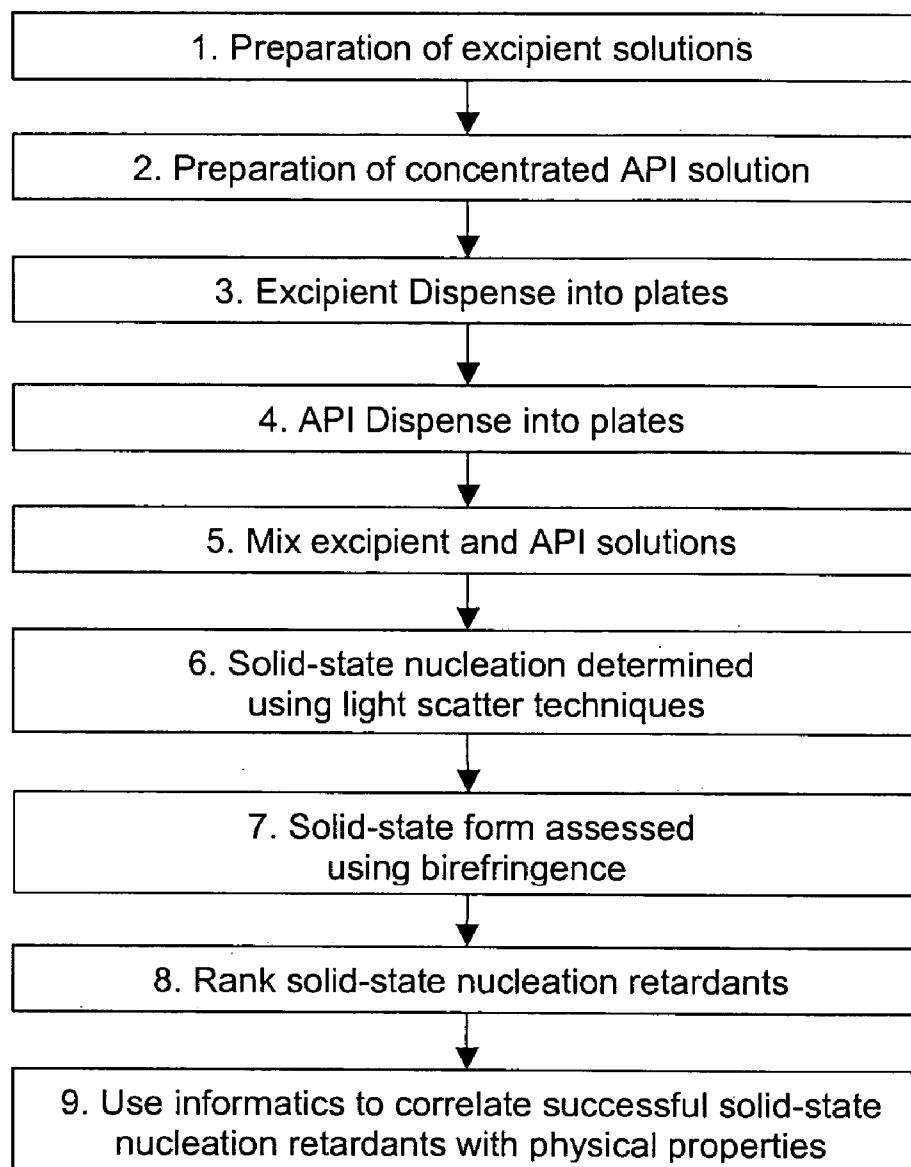


Figure 35

**Figure 36**

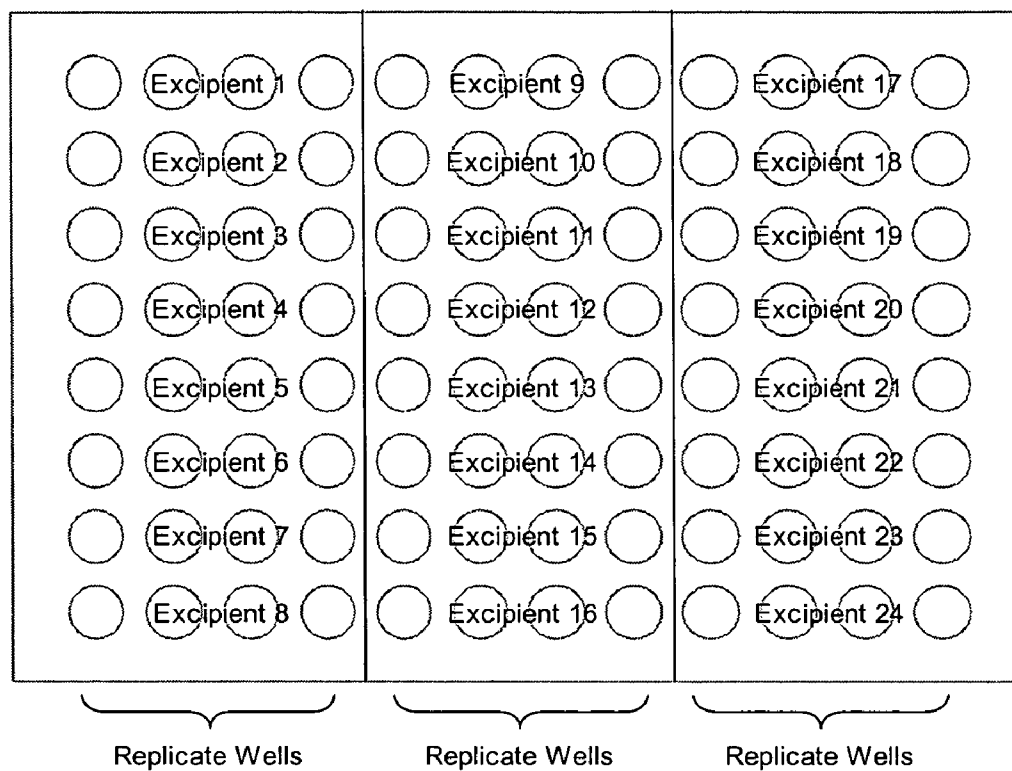
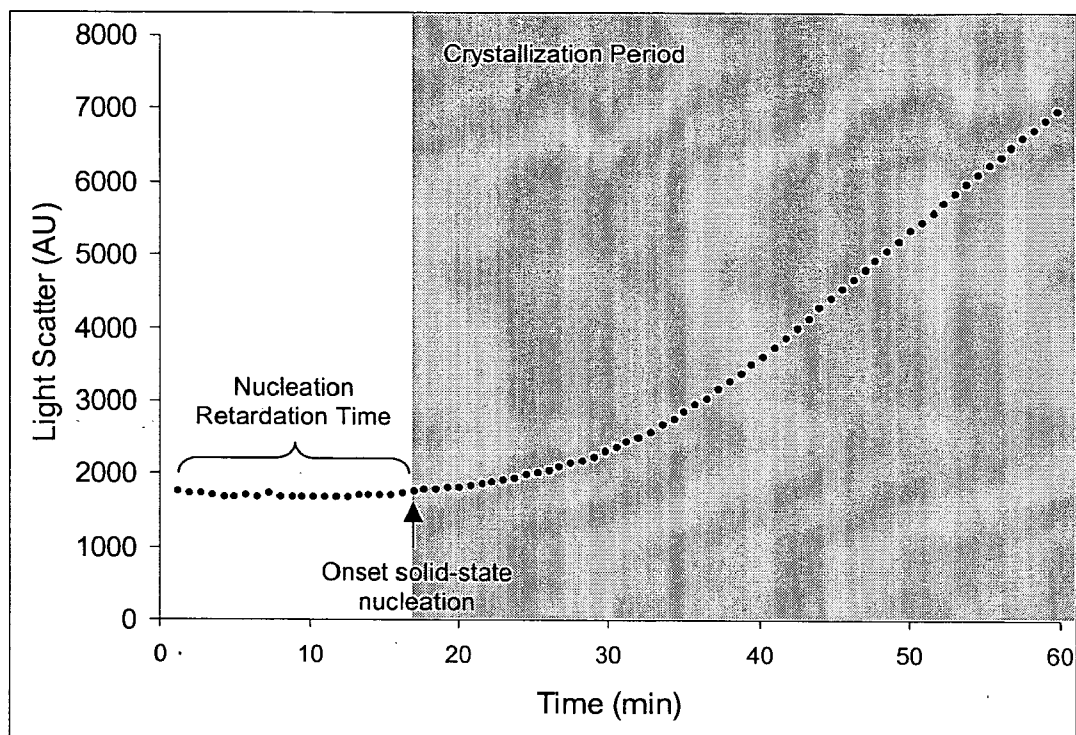


Figure 37

**Figure 38**

Sample: Celecoxib Na pg from Et2O
Size: 3.0430 mg
Method: Ramp

TGA

File: MT_114_118_A; Celecoxib Na pg
Operator: MDT
Run Date: 26-Nov-02 19:30
Instrument: TGA Q500 V4.7 Build 151

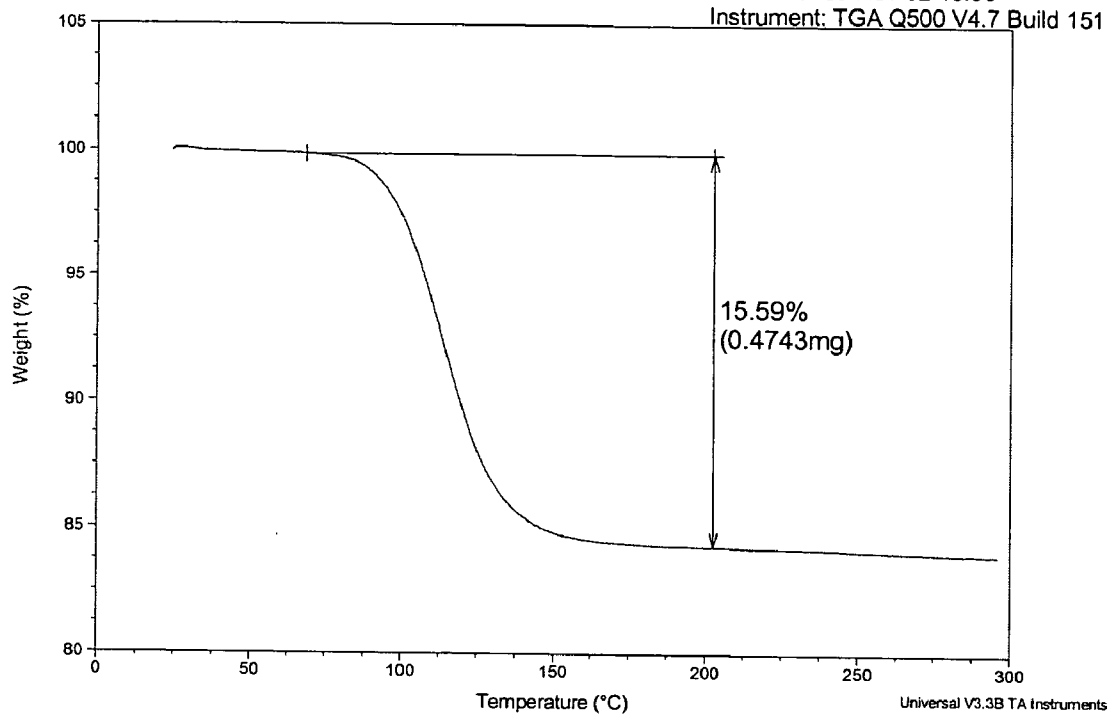
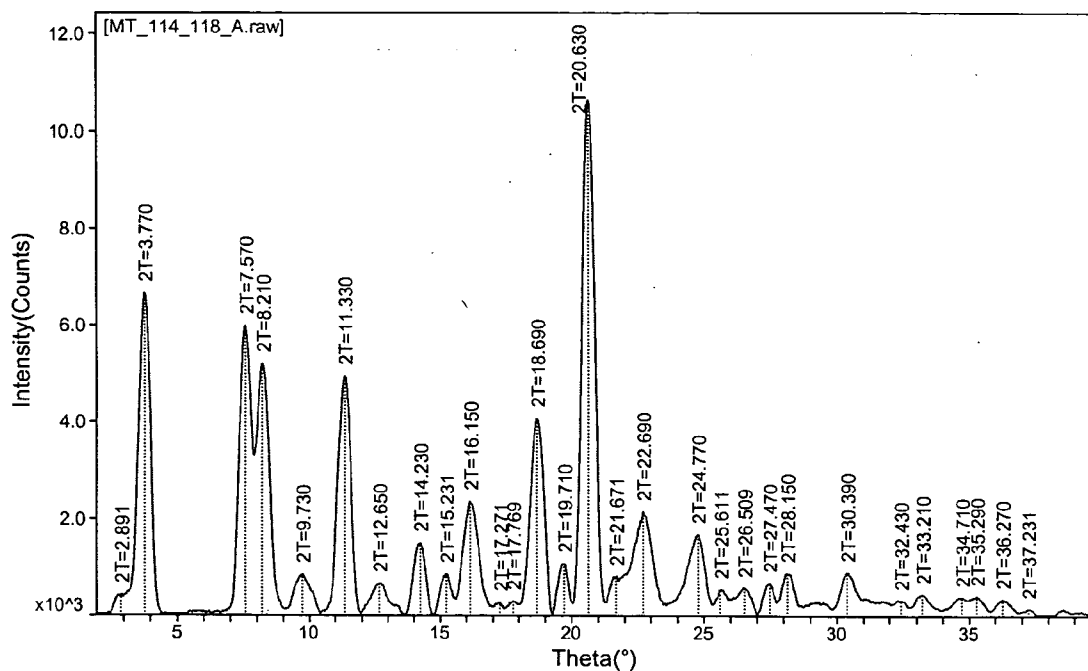


FIGURE 39



Sample: MT_114_139_C; Celecoxib K pg
Size: 5.5520 mg
Method: Ramp
Comment: from Et2O

TGA

File: \\\...\\TA\\Data\\TGA\\MT_114_139_C.001
Operator: MDT
Run Date: 20-Dec-02 14:19
Instrument: TGA Q500 V4.7 Build 151

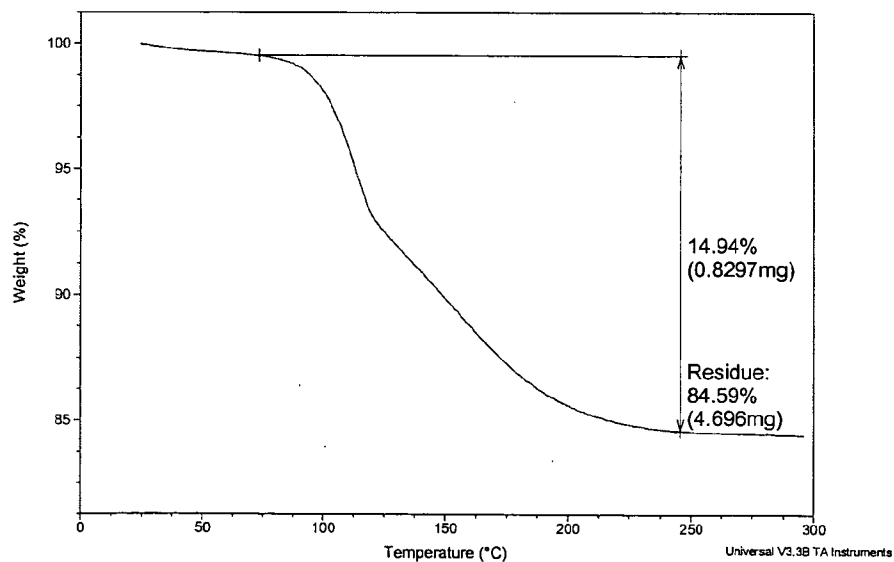


FIGURE 41

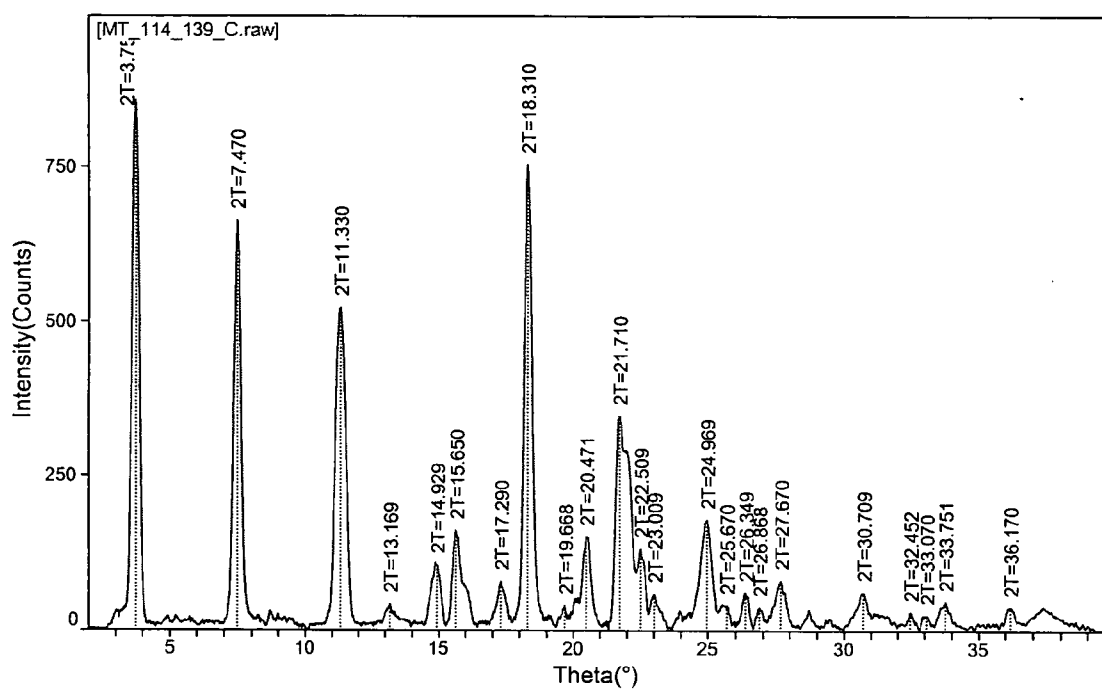


FIGURE 42

Sample: Celecoxib LI pg
Size: 3.4520 mg
Method: Ramp
Comment: from Et2O with tBuLi

TGA

File: \\...\\TA\\Data\\TGA\\MTawa\\MT_114_141_A.001
Operator: MDT
Run Date: 23-Dec-02 15:39
Instrument: TGA Q500 V4.7 Build 151

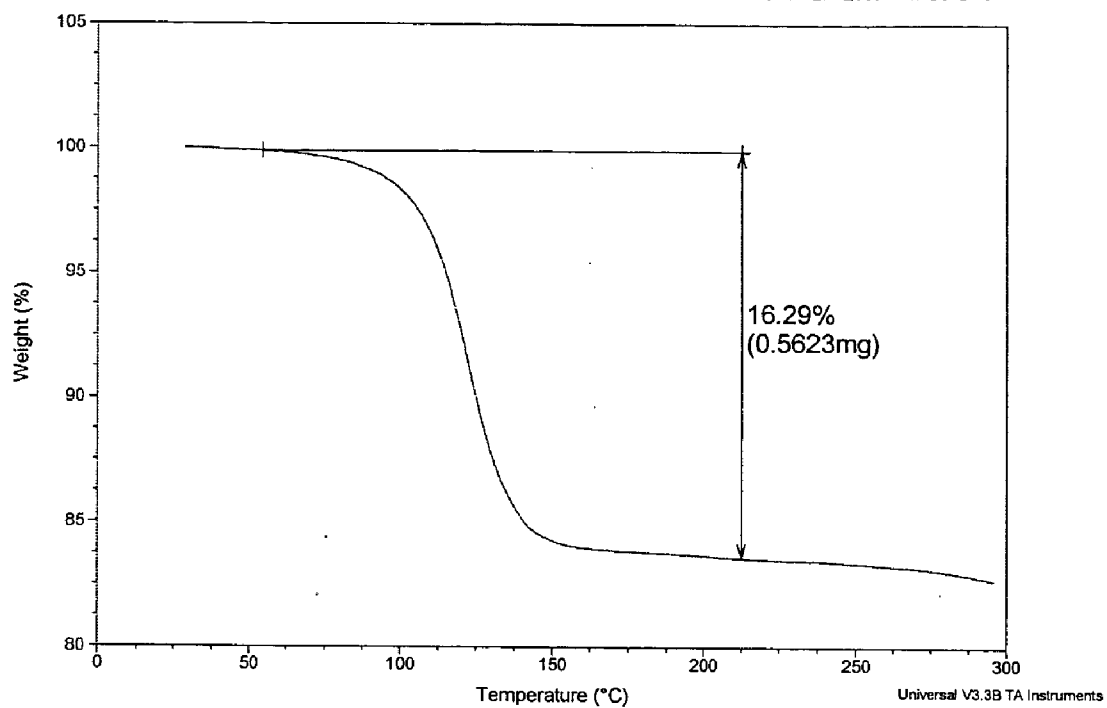


FIGURE 43

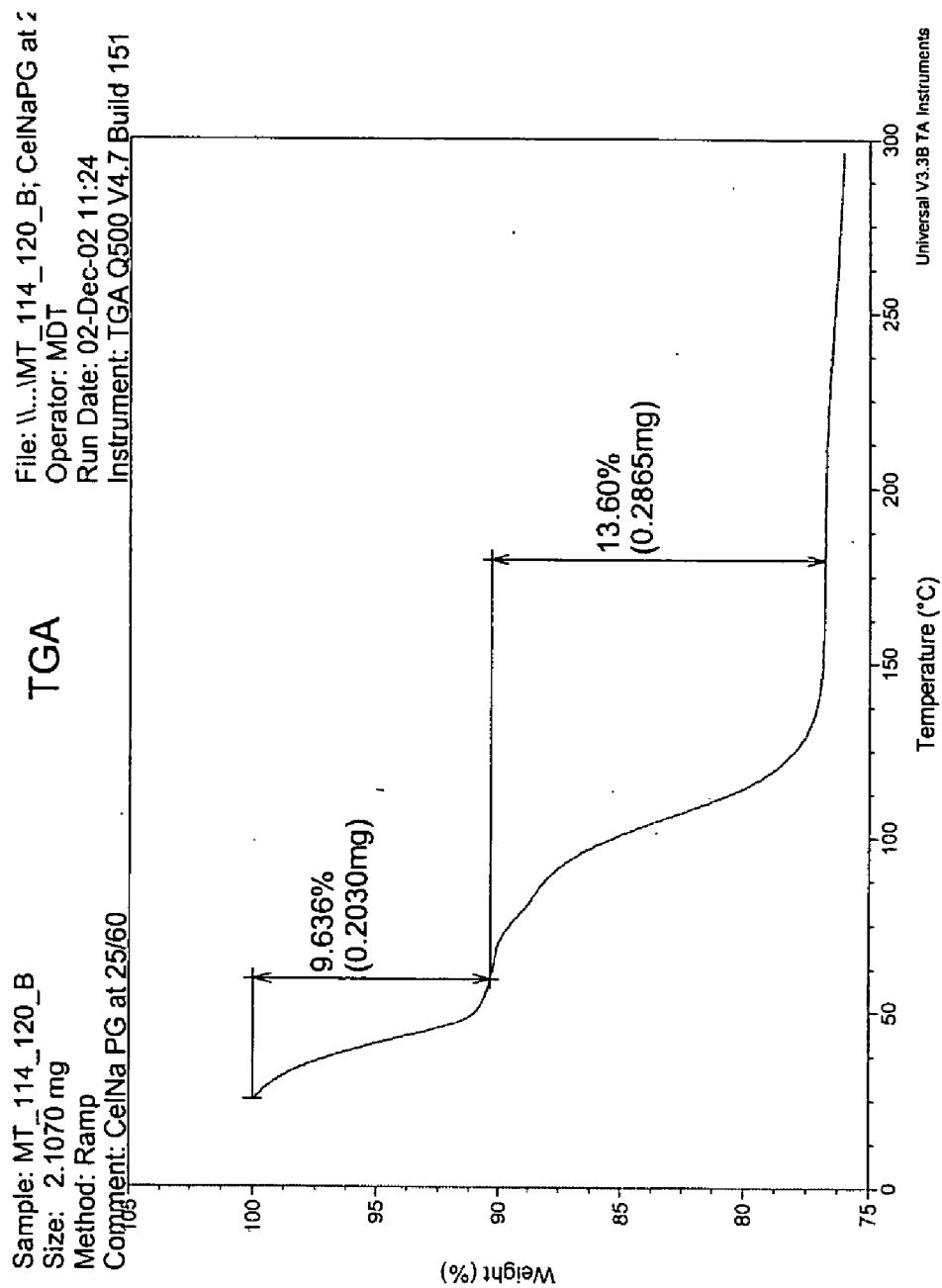


FIGURE 44

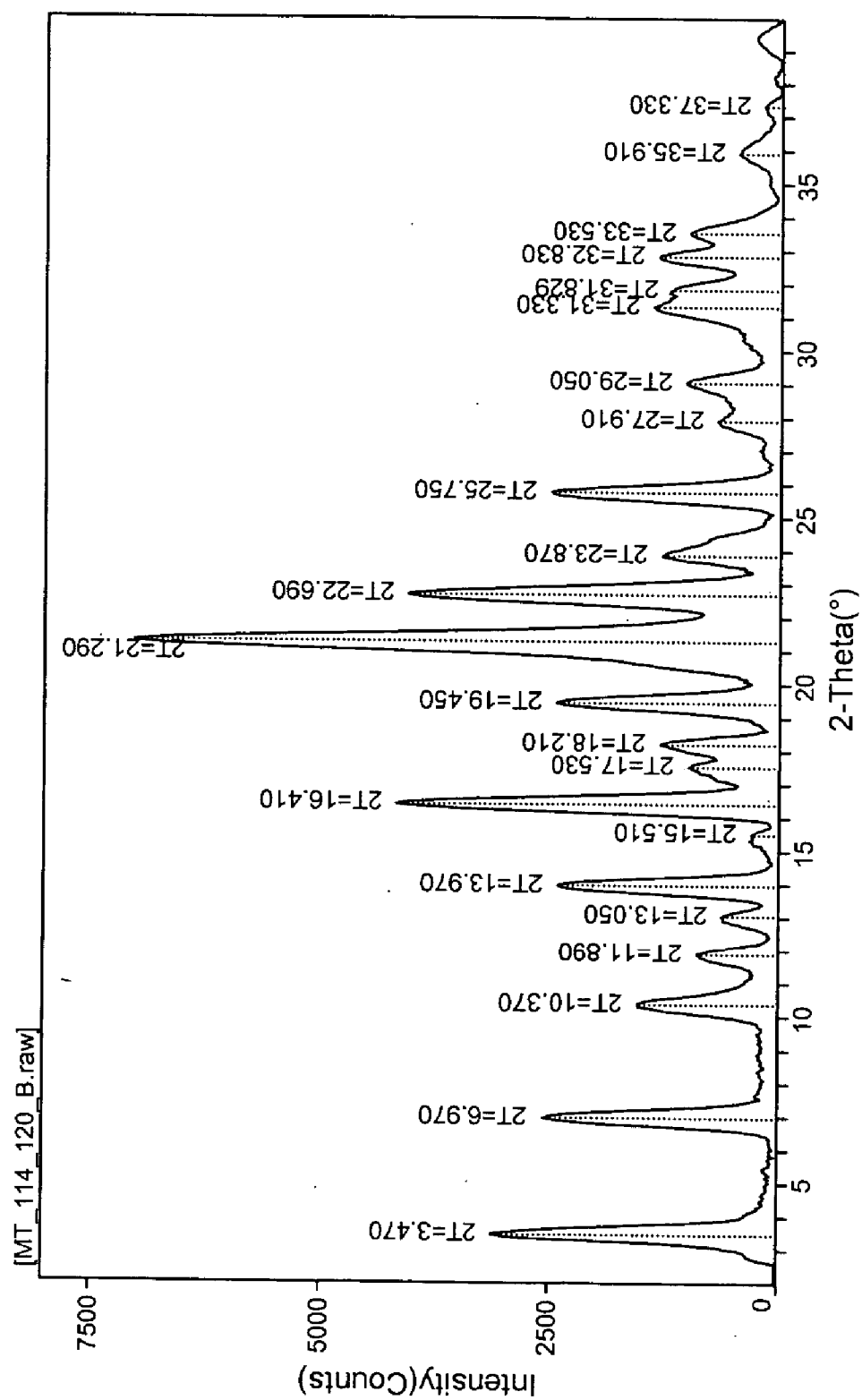


FIGURE 45

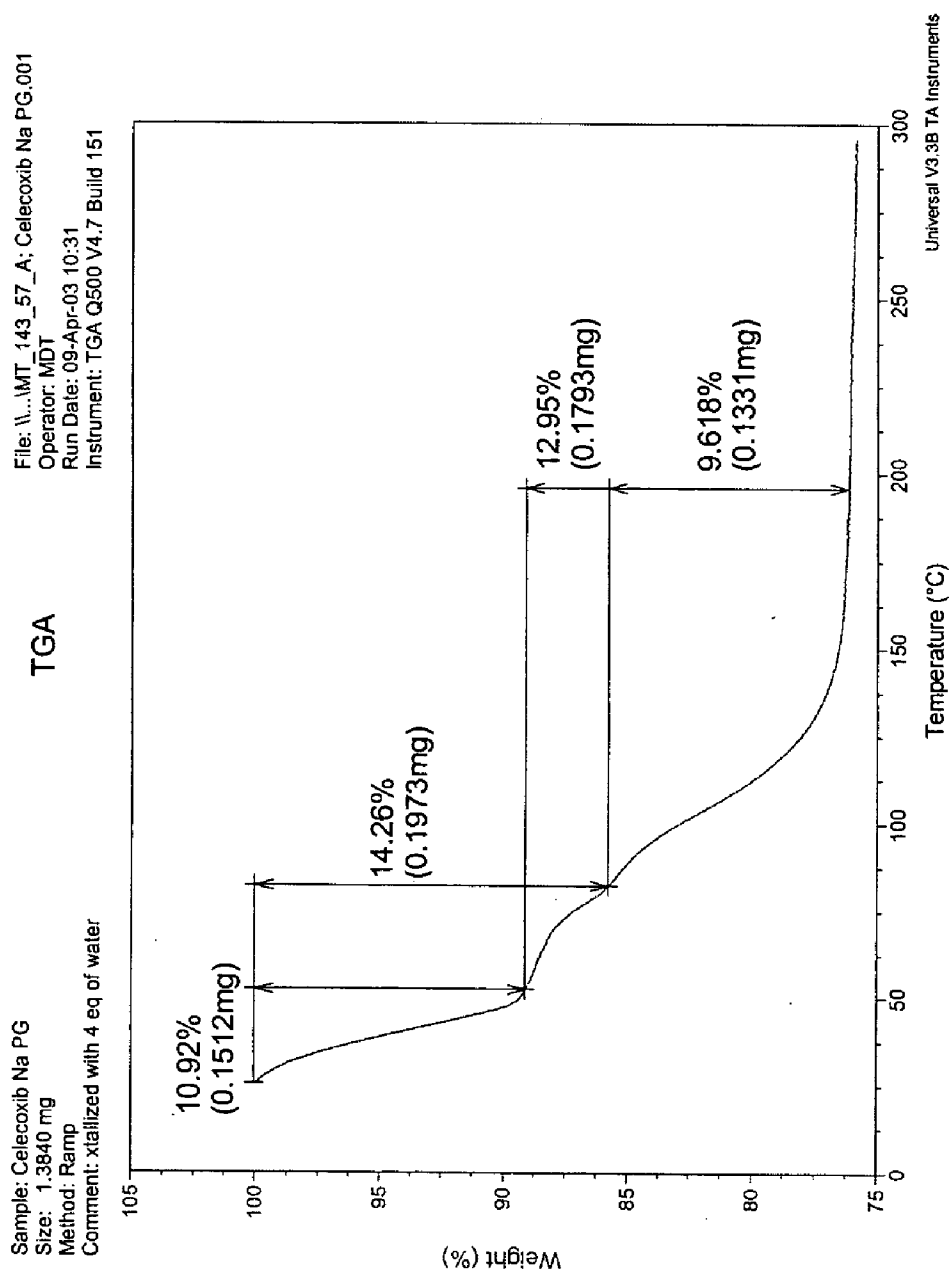


FIGURE 46

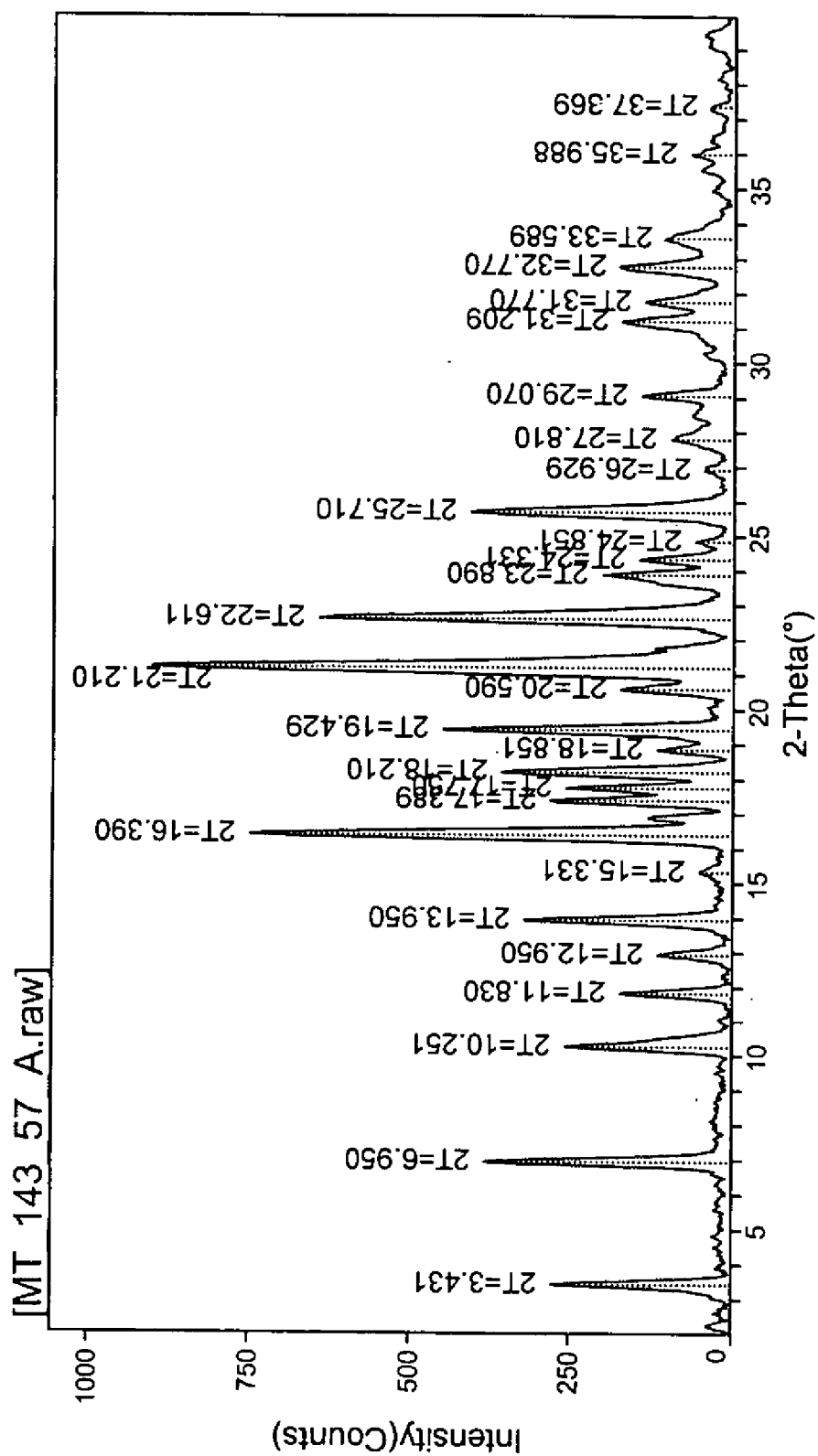


FIGURE 47

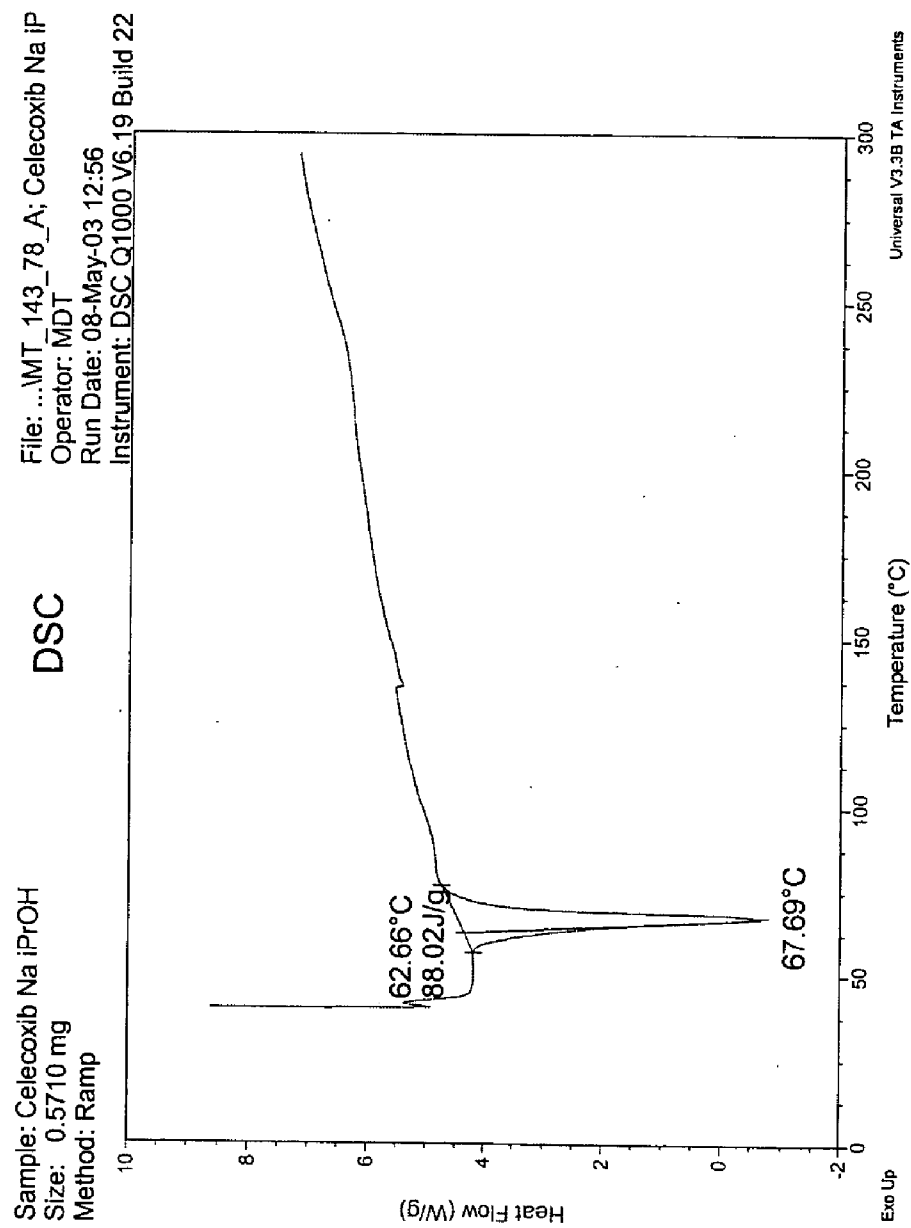


FIGURE 48

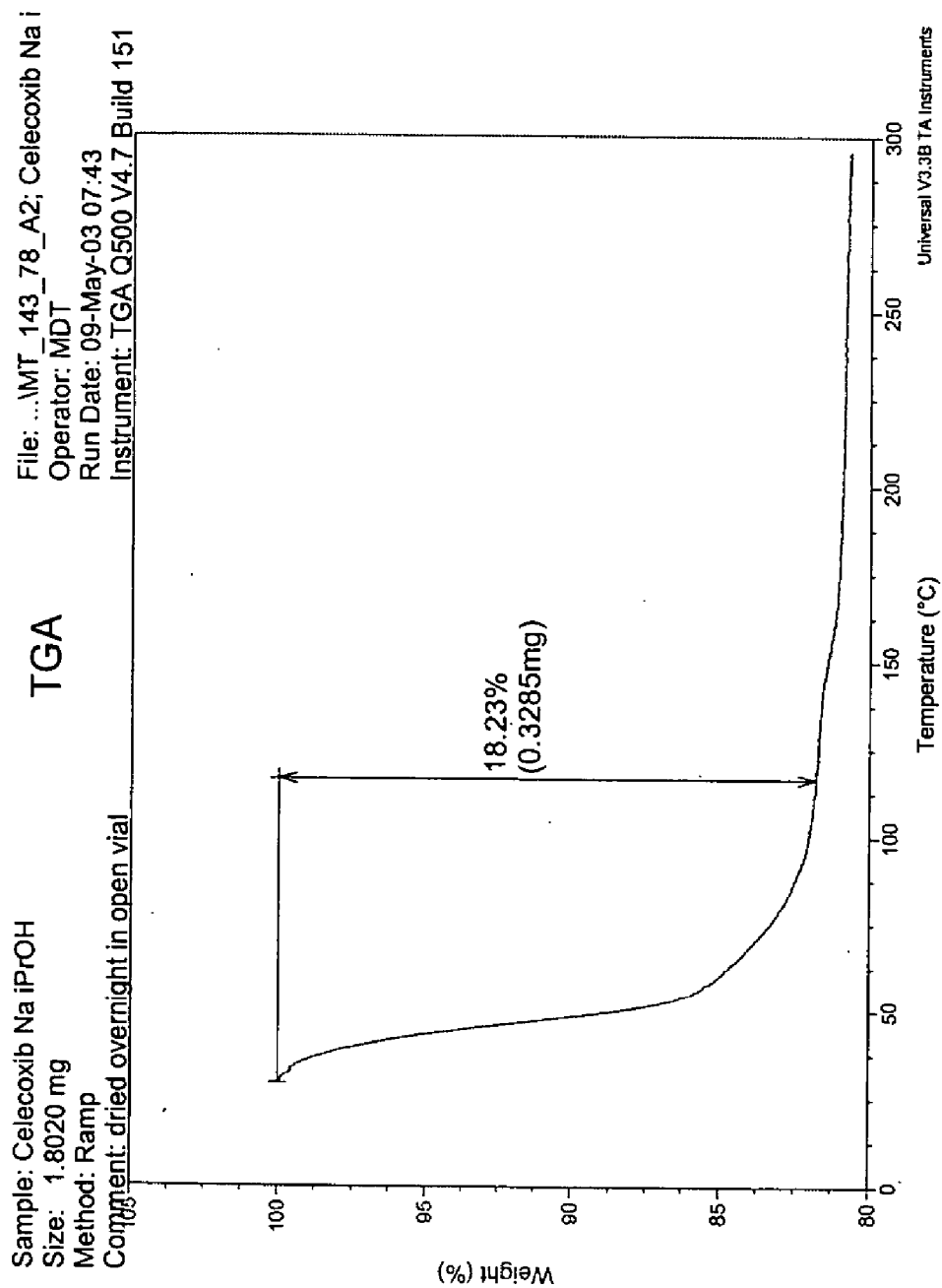


FIGURE 49

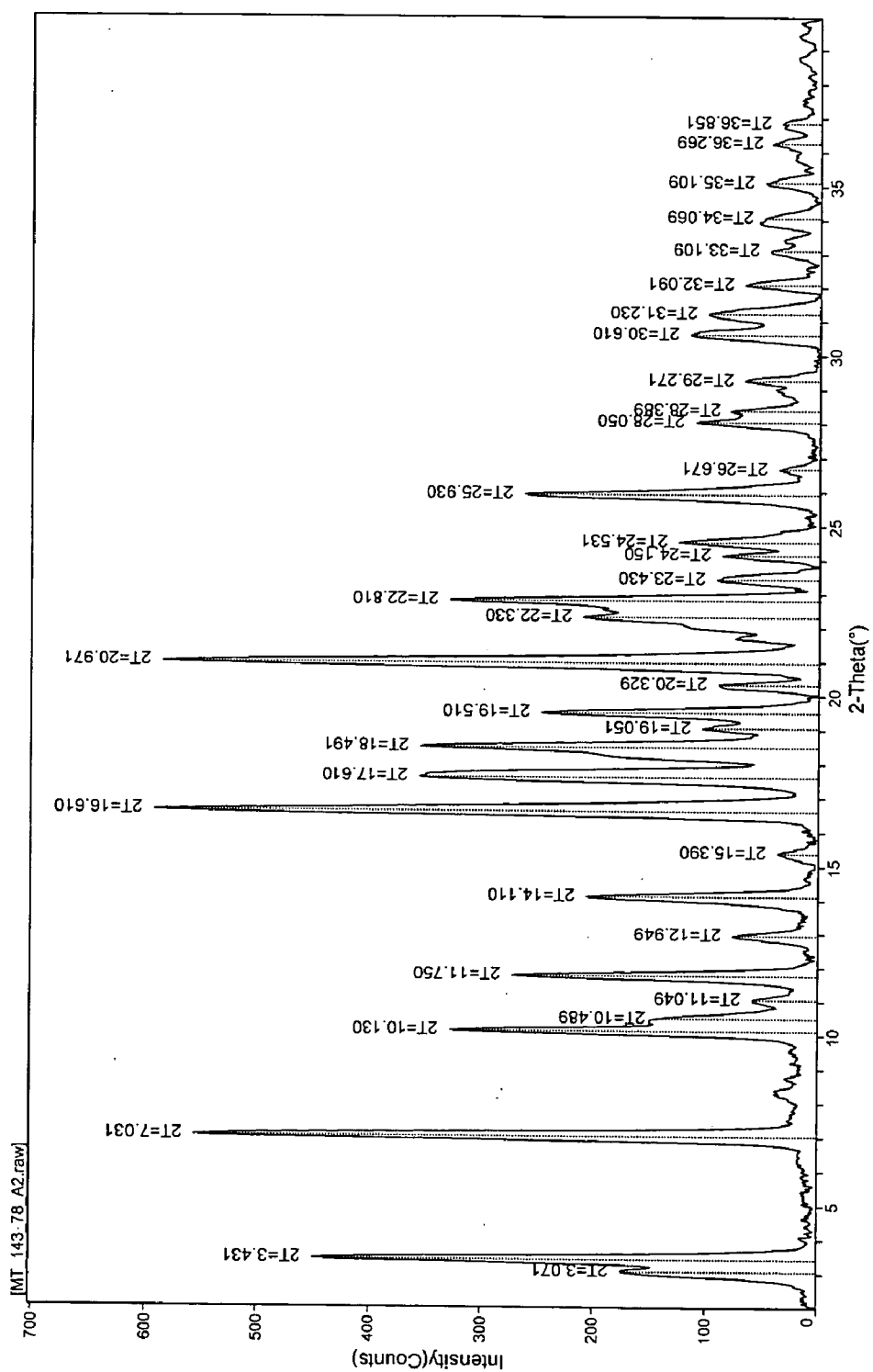


FIGURE 50

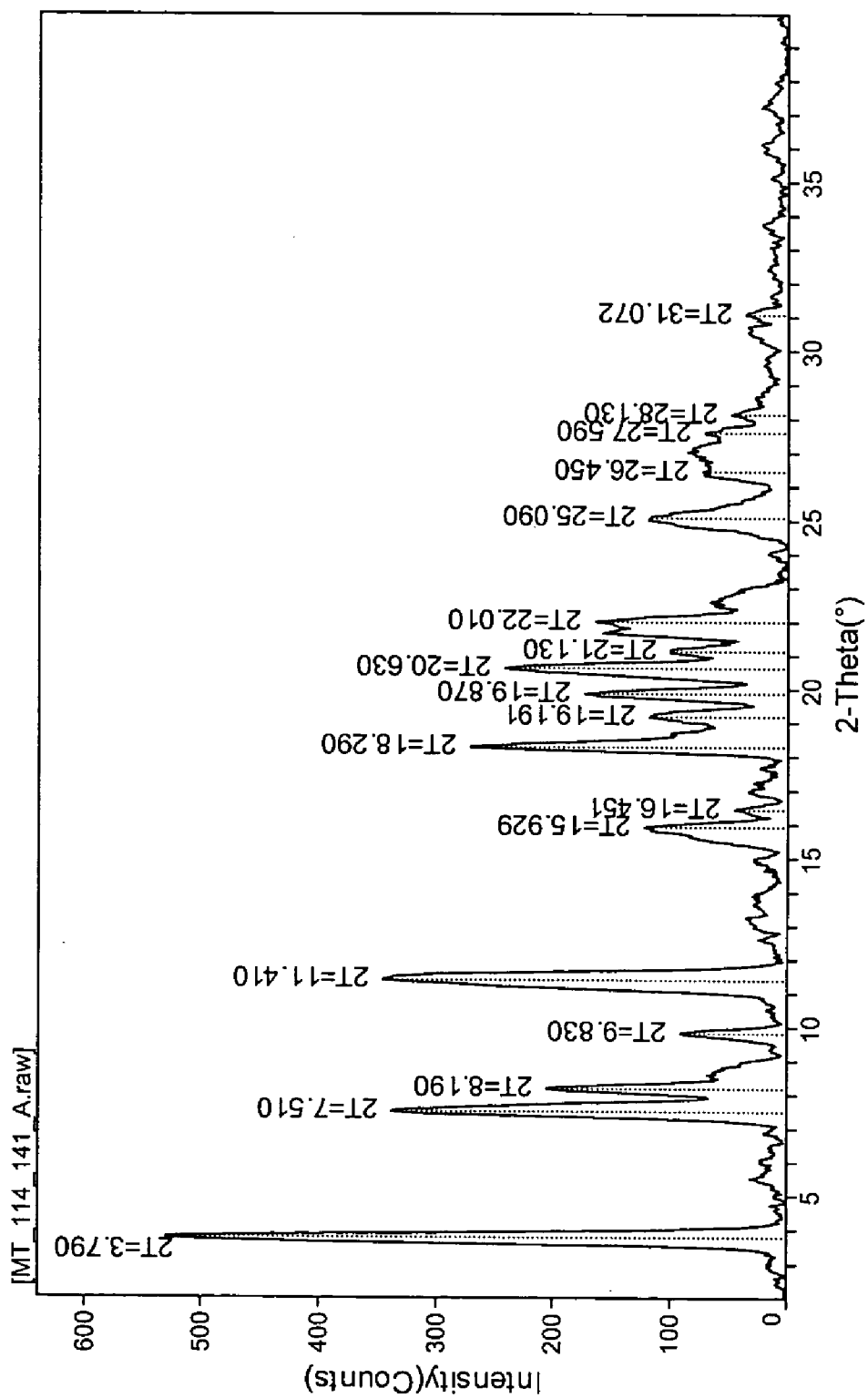


FIGURE 51

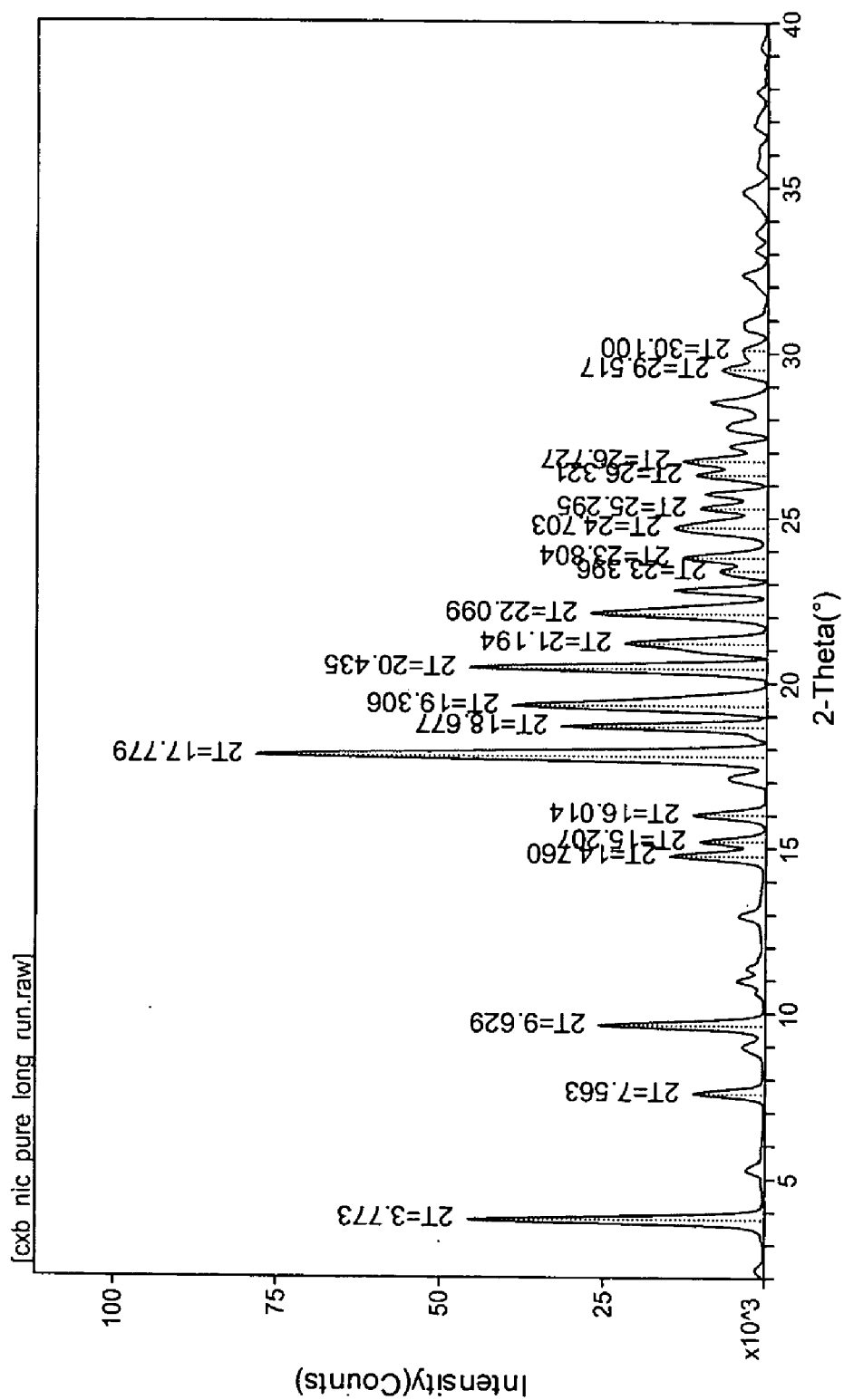


FIGURE 52

17% RH

Celecoxib Na hydrate

Batch No. MT_138_A

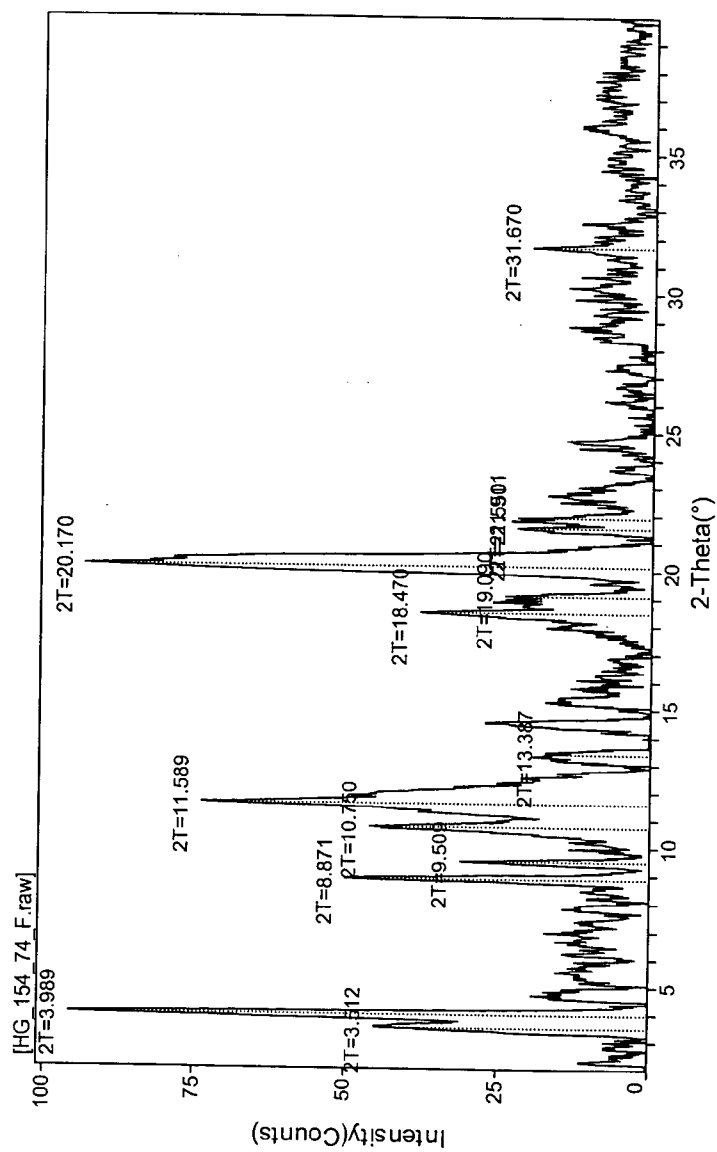


Figure 53

31% RH

Celecoxib Na hydrate

Batch No. MT_143_138_A

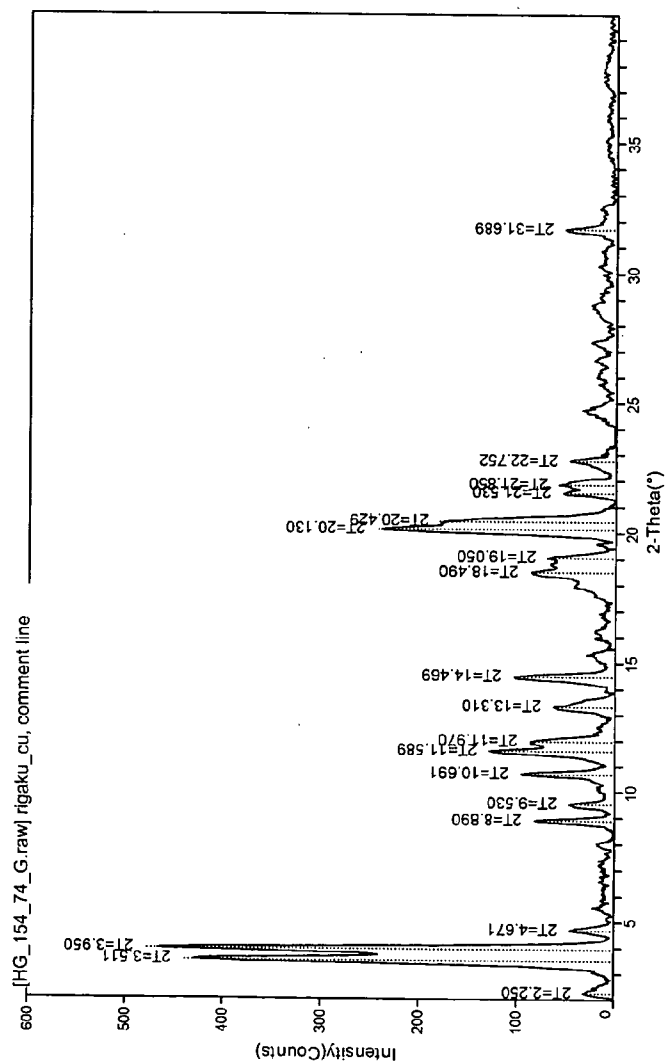


FIGURE 54

59% RH

Celecoxib Na hydrate

Batch No. MT_143_38_A

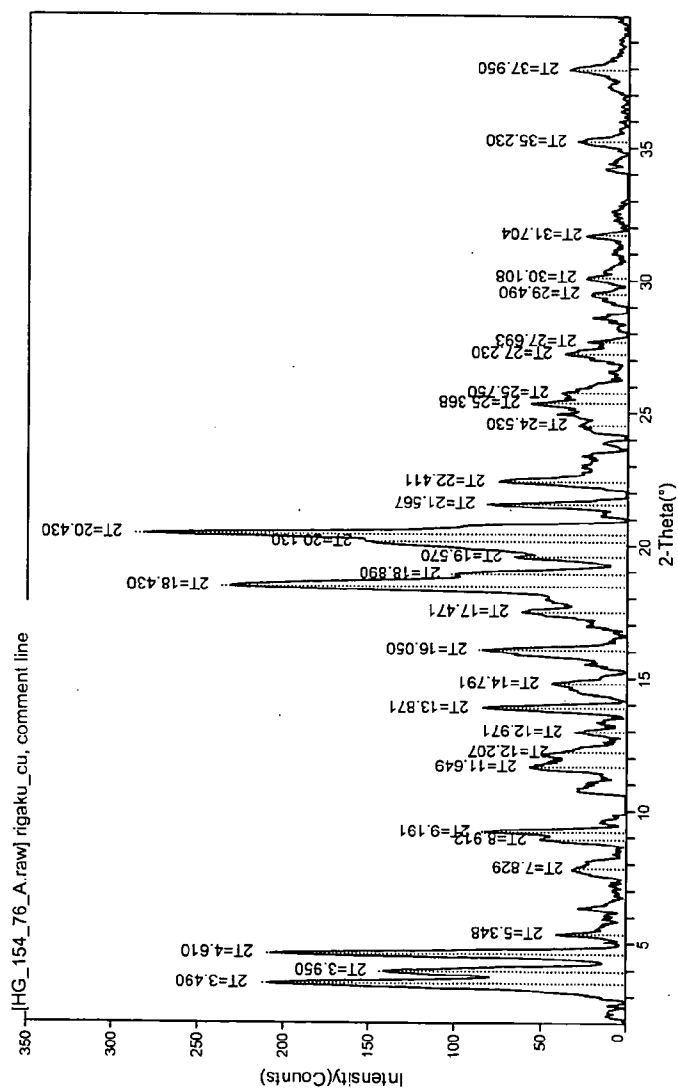


FIGURE 55

74% RH

Celecoxib Na hydrate

Batch No. MT_143_138_A

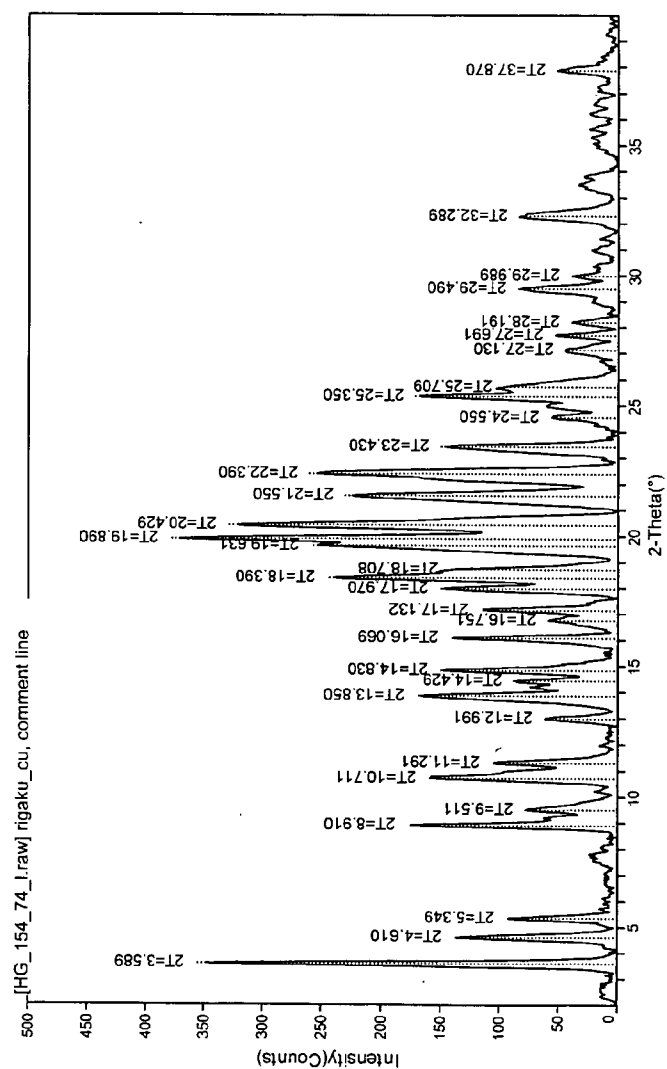


FIGURE 56

17% RH

Celecoxib Na propylene glycol solvate

Batch No. MT_143_25

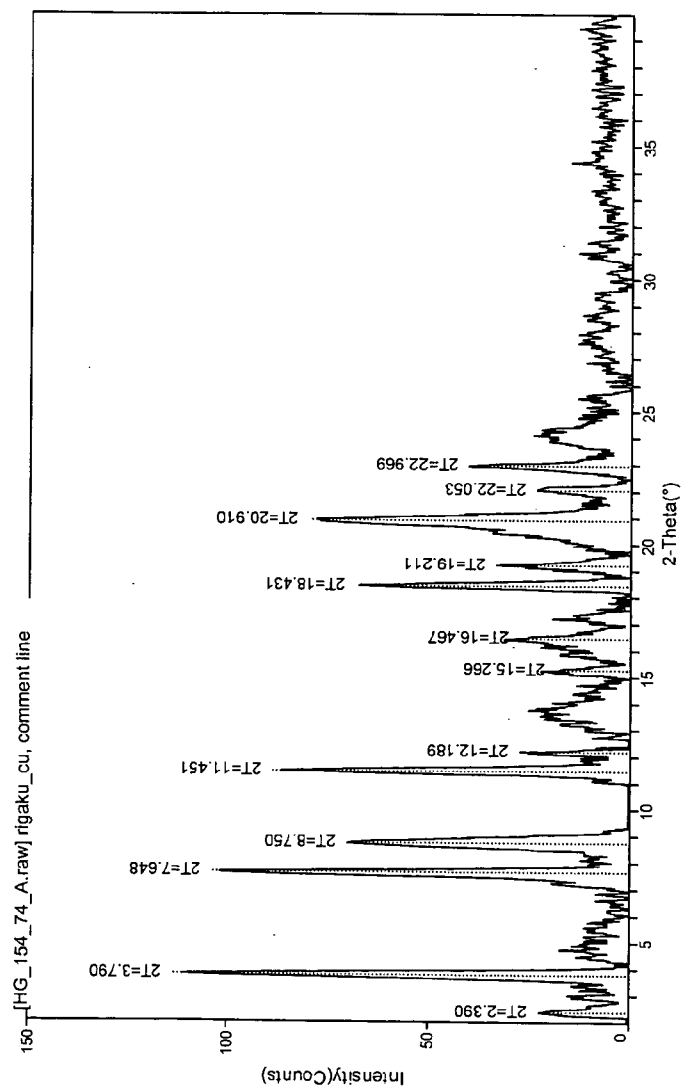


FIGURE 57

31% RH

Celecoxib Na propylene glycol solvate

Batch No. MT_143_25

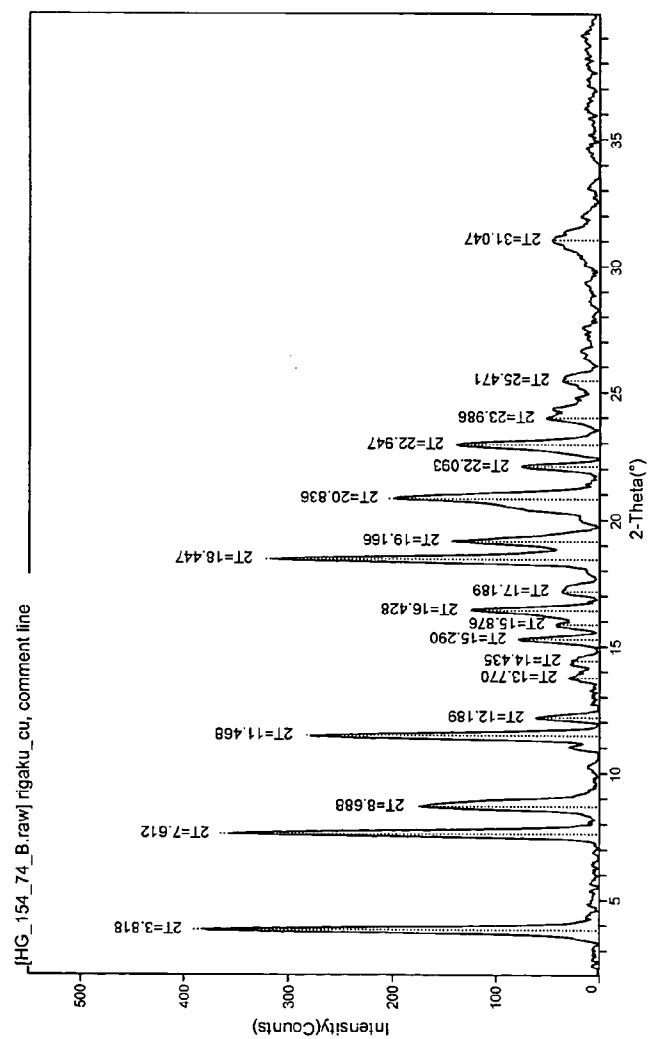


FIGURE 58

59% RH

Celecoxib Na propylene glycol solvate

Batch No. MT_143_25

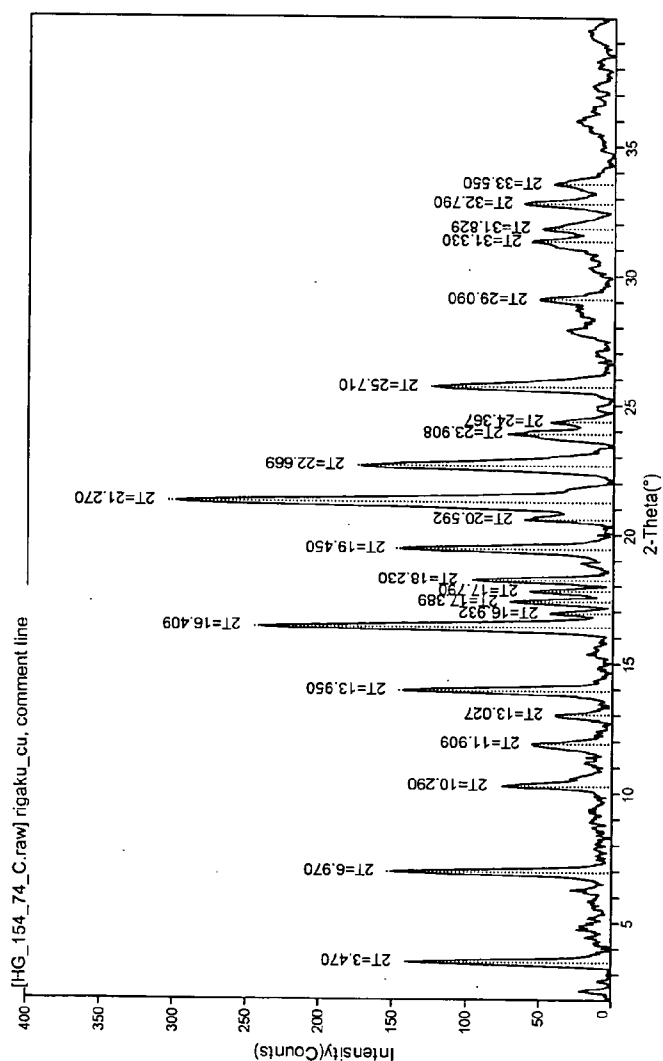


FIGURE 59

74% RH

Celecoxib Na propylene glycol solvate

Batch No. MT_143_25

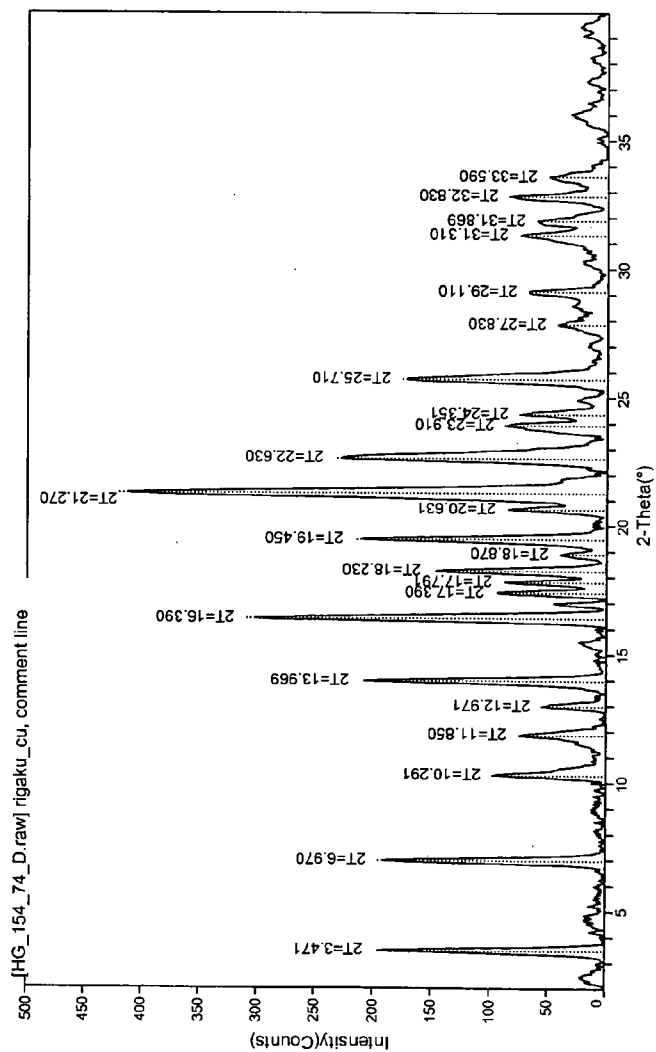


FIGURE 60

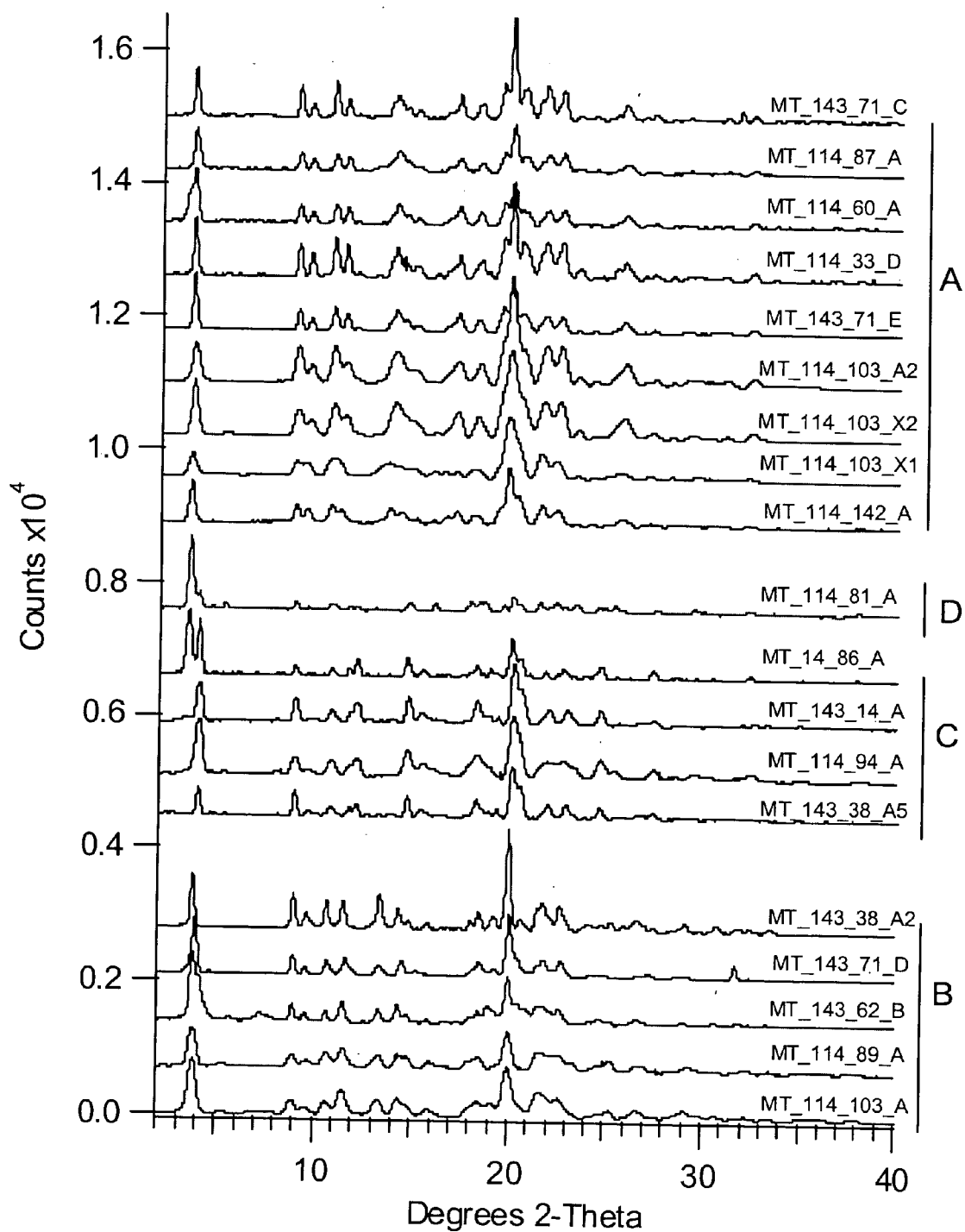


Figure 61

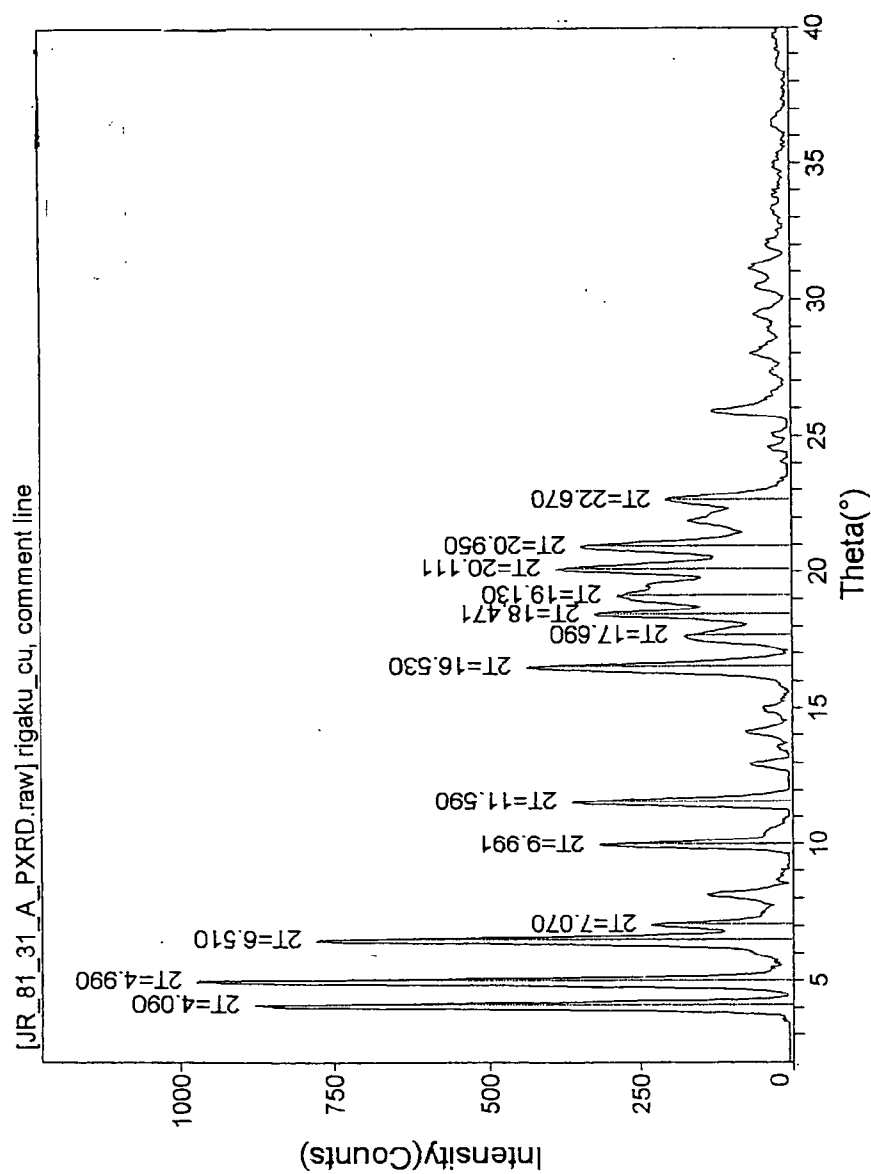


FIGURE 62

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS WITH IMPROVED DISSOLUTION

RELATED APPLICATIONS

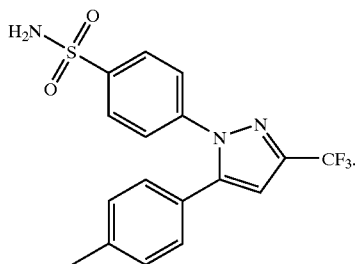
[0001] This application has been converted from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/390,881, filed on Jun. 21, 2002 which is hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes. This application also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/426,275, filed on Nov. 14, 2002; U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/427,086 filed on Nov. 15, 2002; U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/429,515 filed on Nov. 26, 2002; U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/437,516 filed on Dec. 30, 2002; and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/456,027 filed on Mar. 18, 2003 which are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions and methods for preparing same.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Celecoxib (4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide) is a substituted pyrazolylbenzenesulfonamide represented by the structure:



[0004] Celecoxib belongs to the general class of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Unlike traditional NSAIDs, celecoxib is a selective inhibitor of cyclooxygenase II (COX-2) that causes fewer side effects when administered to a subject. The synthesis and use of celecoxib are further described in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,466,823, 5,510,496, 5,563,165, 5,753,688, 5,760,068, 5,972,986, and 6,156,781, the contents of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety. Orally deliverable liquid formulations of celecoxib are discussed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0107250 in the name of Hariharan, et al., the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. Other Cox-2 inhibitory drugs are related to celecoxib, which form part of a larger group of drugs, all of which are benzene sulfonamides. These include: deracoxib, which is 4-[3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl]-3-difluoromethyl-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzene sulfonamide; valdecoxib, which is 4-[5-methyl-3-phenyl isoxazol-4-yl]benzene sulfonamide; rofecoxib, which is 3-phenyl-4-[(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-5H-furan-2-one; and etoricoxib, which is 5-chloro-3-(4-methylsulfonyl)phenyl-2-(2-methyl-5-pyridinyl)pyridine. These drugs are described in further detail in WO01/78724 and WO02/102376.

[0005] In its commercially available form as CELEBREX™, celecoxib is a neutral molecule that is essentially

insoluble in water. Celecoxib typically exists as needle-like crystals, which tend to aggregate into a mass. Aggregation occurs even when celecoxib is mixed with other substances, such that a non-uniform mixture is obtained. These properties are shared by other pyrazolylbenzenesulfonamides and present significant problems in preparing pharmaceutical formulations of the drugs, particularly oral formulations.

[0006] It would be advantageous to provide new forms of drugs that have low aqueous dissolution which have improved properties, in particular as oral formulations. In particular, even where an active pharmaceutical ingredient (api) of low aqueous solubility is provided in a form which has improved aqueous solubility, there still exists a problem when dissolution of the drug is required, for example after having been taken as an oral formulation where the drug becomes diluted in the alimentary canal. In this situation apis having low aqueous solubility tend to come out of solution. When this happens, for example by a process of crystallization or precipitation, the bioavailability of the api is significantly decreased. It would therefore be desirable to improve the properties of formulations containing such apis so as to increase the bioavailability of the api in an orally-administered form, thereby to provide a more rapid onset to therapeutic effect.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0007] It has now been found that a stable, crystalline salts and co-crystal of celecoxib can be synthesized. The celecoxib compositions of the present invention have a greater solubility, dissolution, total bioavailability (area under the curve or AUC), lower T_{max} , the time to reach peak blood serum levels, and higher C_{max} , the maximum blood serum concentration, than neutral celecoxib. The celecoxib compositions of the present invention also include compounds that are less hygroscopic and more stable. The celecoxib salts of the present invention when in crystalline form convert to either an amorphous free form of celecoxib upon neutralization of the salt, which subsequently converts to a neutral metastable crystalline form or directly to a neutral metastable crystalline form. These amorphous and metastable crystalline forms of neutral celecoxib are more readily available forms of the api than is presently-marketed neutral celecoxib. Neutral crystalline celecoxib is presently-marketed as CELEBREX™, and is designated as "neutral" to distinguish it from the ionized salt form of celecoxib. In addition, acidification or neutralization of a solution of the celecoxib salt in situ yields amorphous celecoxib, which subsequently converts to a metastable crystalline form or directly to a neutral metastable crystalline form of neutral celecoxib before finally converting into stable, neutral celecoxib.

[0008] An aspect of the present invention relates to methods of increasing dissolution, solubility, and/or the time a pharmaceutical (the terms pharmaceutical and drug are used herein interchangeably), can be maintained, upon dissolution, as a supersaturated solution, before precipitating out of solution. The increase in dissolution (or concentration as a function of time) results in, and thus can be represented by an increase in bioavailability, AUC, reduced time to T_{max} or increased C_{max} . The methods comprise the steps of making a salt or co-crystal of a free acid api and combining the salt or co-crystal with a recrystallization or precipitation retardant and optionally, a recrystallization/precipitation retardant

dant enhancer (referred to as enhancer hereafter). The salt may be amorphous or crystalline, but is preferably crystalline. Normally the salt or co-crystal form used is in a crystalline form which dissolves and then recrystallizes and precipitates out of solution, which is why the term "re"crystallization retardant is used. It is noted however, that one could begin with an amorphous form of the salt so the term is used when beginning with either a crystalline or amorphous form. The term "recrystallization" can also be interchanged with the term "precipitation" which refers to either a crystalline or amorphous solid form separating or "coming out of" the solution. Crystalline salts are superior to amorphous salts as the initial compound, with an amorphous salt being superior to a neutral amorphous or crystalline form. Free acid forms are not preferred initial compounds unless first solubilized in a solubilizer resulting in a liquid formulation comprising a precipitation retardant and optional enhancer. The recrystallization/precipitation retardant is often a surfactant, preferably a surfactant with an ether functional group, preferably a repeating ether group, e.g., an ether group repeated at least two or three times wherein the oxygen atom is separated by 2 carbon atoms. Further preferred surfactants have an interfacial tension of less than 10 dynes per centimeter when measured at a concentration of 0.1% w/w in water as compared to mineral oil at 25° C. and/or the surface tension of the recrystallization retardant (e.g., poloxamers) is less than 42 dynes/cm when measured as a concentration of 0.1% w/w in water at 25° C. The combination of salt or co-crystal, recrystallization/precipitation retardant and an optional enhancer (or recrystallization/precipitation retardant, an optional enhancer and some other form) preferably prevents or delays precipitation of a supersaturated solution by about 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, or 60 minutes or greater than 1 hour in an aqueous solution, preferably water or gastric fluid conditions such as the gastric fluids of an average human stomach fasted for 12 hours or simulated gastric fluid (SGF). Preferably, the solution remain supersaturated for more than 15, 20, or 30 minutes to allow the composition to move out of the stomach and into an environment with a higher pH. The SGF may be diluted by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 fold to represent water intake. For example, the SGF may be diluted 5 fold to represent a patient drinking a glass of water at the time a composition of the present invention is taken orally. The degree of increase in solubility, dissolution, and/or supersaturation may be specified, such as by 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, or 100%, or by 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, 1000, 10,000, or 100,000 fold greater than neutral celecoxib (e.g., free acid) in the same solution. The increase in dissolution may be further specified by the time the composition remain supersaturated.

[0009] The enhancer preferably comprises a cellulose ester such as hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC) or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC). Thus according to the methods of the present invention, supersaturated concentrations upon which a drug may be maintained upon dissolution and/or the degree of dissolution of a drug in gastric fluid conditions (e.g., SGF) is enhanced.

[0010] Normally, the enhancer does not improve the length of time the api can remain supersaturated without the additional pressure of the recrystallization/precipitation retardant. The methods of the present invention are used to make a pharmaceutical drug formulation with greater solu-

bility, dissolution, and bioavailability, AUC, reduced time to T_{max} , the time to reach peak blood serum levels, and higher C_{max} , the maximum blood serum concentration, when compared to the neutral form or salt alone. AUC is the area under the plot of plasma concentration of drug (not logarithm of the concentration) against time after drug administration. The area is conveniently determined by the "trapezoidal rule": the data points are connected by straight line segments, perpendiculars are erected from the abscissa to each data point, and the sum of the areas of the triangles and trapezoids so constructed is computed. When the last measured concentration (C_n , at time t_n) is not zero, the AUC from t_n to infinite time is estimated by C_n/k_{el} .

[0011] The AUC is of particular use in estimating bioavailability of drugs, and in estimating total clearance of drugs (Cl_T). Following single intravenous doses, $AUC=D/Cl_T$, for single compartment systems obeying first-order elimination kinetics; alternatively, $AUC=C_0/k_{el}$. With routes other than the intravenous, for such systems, $AUC=F \cdot D/Cl_T$, where F is the availability of the drug.

[0012] The invention further relates to wherein a recrystallization/precipitation retardant and an optional, enhancer is combined with a pharmaceutical that is already in a salt or co-crystal form. The invention further relates to wherein a recrystallization/precipitation retardant and an optional enhancer is combined with a pharmaceutical that is a solvate, desolvate, hydrate, dehydrate, or anhydrous form of a salt or co-crystal form.

[0013] Accordingly, in a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

[0014] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;

[0015] (b) a recrystallization/precipitation retardant; and

[0016] (c) an optional enhancer.

[0017] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

[0018] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;

[0019] (b) a recrystallization/precipitation retardant having an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or a surface tension of less than 42 dyne/cm; and

[0020] (c) an optional enhancer.

[0021] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

[0022] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;

[0023] (b) a surfactant; and

[0024] (c) an optional enhancer.

[0025] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

[0026] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;

[0027] (b) a poloxamer having an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or surface tension less than 42 dyne/cm; and

[0028] (c) an optional enhancer.

[0029] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- [0030] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;
- [0031] (b) a surfactant; and
- [0032] (c) a cellulose ester.

[0033] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- [0034] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;
- [0035] (b) a surfactant having an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or surface tension less than 42 dyne/cm; and
- [0036] (c) hydroxypropyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

[0037] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- [0038] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;
- [0039] (b) a poloxamer; and
- [0040] (c) hydroxypropyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

[0041] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- [0042] (a) an api having low aqueous solubility or dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions;
- [0043] (b) a poloxamer having an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or surface tension less than 42 dyne/cm; and
- [0044] (c) hydroxypropyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

[0045] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising

- [0046] (a) celecoxib;
- [0047] (b) a poloxamer surfactant having an interfacial tension at a concentration of 0.1% of less than 10 dyne/cm or surface tension less than 42 dyne/cm; and
- [0048] (c) a recrystallization/precipitation retardant comprising a hydroxypropyl cellulose or hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.

[0049] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for delivering a supersaturated concentration of a drug having low aqueous dissolution, preferably in gastric fluid conditions, which process comprises intimately mixing together the components of the above aspects or elsewhere herein.

[0050] In a further aspect, the surfactant is at a concentration of less than 5%, 4%, 3%, 2%, 1%, 0.9%, 0.8%, 0.7%, 0.6%, 0.5%, 0.4%, 0.3%, 0.2%, or 0.1% or at a concentration of 0.1% (w/w).

[0051] The present invention further provides a process for producing a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

- [0052] (1) providing a plurality of containers;
- [0053] (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;
- [0054] (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;
- [0055] (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, a property of each mixture being varied in different containers;
- [0056] (5) incubating the mixture;
- [0057] (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation;
- [0058] (7) selecting a pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination whereby onset of solid-state nucleation is retarded; and
- [0059] (8) producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination.

[0060] Applicants found that it is possible to screen mixtures containing a pharmaceutical compound and an excipient in a rapid and simple manner so as to identify which properties of the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination retard (inhibit) solid-state nucleation which is used herein to refer to the initiation of solidification, whether amorphous or crystalline. In this way, those excipients or other properties of the combination can be chosen for the production of a pharmaceutical composition in which the api remains in solution for a sufficient time after administration to a subject. In this way, pharmaceutical compositions which attain at least a minimum bioavailability of the api may be readily produced based on a straightforward in vitro screening.

[0061] Various properties of a pharmaceutical composition may affect the onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation of the api (pharmaceutical compound). Such properties include the identity or amount of the excipient and the identity or amount of the pharmaceutical compound in the composition. Other properties may include the amount of other diluents or carriers such as salts or buffering compounds. The pharmaceutical compound itself may be screened in a variety of different forms if it is capable of polymorphism. Additionally, different salt, solvate, hydrate, co-crystal and other forms of the api may be screened in accordance with the invention.

[0062] The invention is readily applicable to screening a large variety of different excipients. Accordingly, in a preferred aspect, the present invention provides a process for producing a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

- [0063] (1) providing a plurality of containers;
- [0064] (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;
- [0065] (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;

[0066] (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, the excipient being varied in different containers;

[0067] (5) incubating the mixture;

[0068] (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation;

[0069] (7) selecting an excipient which is found to retard onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation; and

[0070] (8) producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical compound and the selected excipient.

[0071] According to this embodiment, it is the excipient which is varied. Different excipients may be used in different containers and may be present as a single excipient or in a combination of a plurality of excipients, for example, a binary, ternary, tertiary or higher order combination.

[0072] In a further aspect, the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition obtained by processes according to the invention. The pharmaceutical composition may comprise a further excipient, diluent or carrier. In a preferred aspect, the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration.

[0073] The invention further provides a method for assessing excipient-mediated retardation of solid-state nucleation or precipitation of a pharmaceutical compound, which method comprises:

[0074] (1) providing a plurality of containers;

[0075] (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;

[0076] (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;

[0077] (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, a property of each mixture being varied in different containers;

[0078] (5) incubating the mixture;

[0079] (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation; and

[0080] (7) ranking the property of the mixture according to time of onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation.

[0081] In a further aspect the present invention provides a method for screening excipients that retard solid-state nucleation or precipitation of a pharmaceutical compound, which method comprises:

[0082] (1) providing a plurality of containers;

[0083] (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;

[0084] (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;

[0085] (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, the excipient being varied in different containers;

[0086] (5) incubating the mixture;

[0087] (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation; and

[0088] (7) ranking the excipient according to time of onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation.

[0089] Generally speaking, the pharmaceutical compound of the invention is an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) typically capable of existing as a supersaturated solution, preferably in an aqueous-based medium. The api may be a free acid, free base, co-crystal or salt, or a solvate, hydrate or dehydrate thereof. The invention is particularly applicable to such pharmaceutical compositions which, when in contact with a body fluid such as gastric juices or intestinal fluids, would be likely to precipitate or crystallize from solution in a nucleation event. Accordingly, the invention is particularly applicable to pharmaceutical compounds which may have relatively low solubility, as defined herein, when in contact with bodily fluids but possibly relatively high solubility in appropriate in vitro conditions.

[0090] According to the invention, the compound solution is a solution wherein the compound is solubilized and may be a non-aqueous solution or an aqueous solution with a pH adjusted to accommodate the compound. For example, in order to achieve high solubility of the compound, a free base-type compound would be dissolved in aqueous solution at acidic pH whereas a free acid-type compound would be dissolved in an aqueous solution of basic pH. The compound solution may therefore be, and preferably is, a supersaturated solution when compared to water, gastric fluids or intestinal fluids. It would also be preferred for the excipient to be formed in a solution comprising water, usually deionised water, or another aqueous based solution. In one aspect, the mixture simulates gastric juices (SGF) or intestinal fluids (SIF, 0.68% monobasic potassium phosphate, 1% pancreatin, and sodium hydroxide where the pH of the final solution is 7.5.) and in this aspect it is preferred that the excipient is added in a solution simulating those body fluids. Alternatively, further additives, usually in solution, may be added to form the mixtures creating an environment appropriate for the screening to be undertaken.

[0091] One advantage of the present invention is that the plurality of containers may be presented in a multiple well plate format or block and tube format such that at least 24, 48, 96, 384, or 1536 samples are assayed in parallel. Multiple block and tubes or multiwell plates may be assayed such that at least 1000, 3000, 5000, 7000, 10000, 20000, 30000, 40000, 50000, 60000, 70000, 80000, 90000, or 100000 samples are assayed. This is advantageous because the process may be operated in a semi-automated or automated way using existing multiple well plate format-based apparatus. At least the step of dispensing may be performed with automated liquid handling apparatus. Accordingly, it is possible to operate the process as a high throughput screen. Additionally, using a multiple well plate format, the scale of the screening is relatively low. For example, each sample may contain less than 100 mg, 50 mg, 25 mg, 10 mg, 5 mg, 750 ug, 500 ug, 250 ug, 100 ug, 75 ug, 50 ug, 25 ug, 10 ug,

1 ug, 750 ng, 500 ng, 250 ng, 100 ng, or less than 50 ng, depending on the api, sample size, etc. This therefore minimises the amount of active pharmaceutical ingredient material which is needed to identify excipients or properties of the combination of pharmaceutical compound and excipient that retard onset of nucleation. In this way, improved speed and relatively low cost are advantages.

[0092] The intimate mixture formed in the process may be achieved by any conventional method, including the use of a mixer during or after dispensing of the solutions. Once the mixture has been formed, it is generally advantageous to incubate the mixture at a constant temperature, such as approximately 37° C., to simulate in vivo conditions.

[0093] Measurement of onset of solid-state nucleation or precipitation may be determined by measuring light scattering of a mixture. This may be achieved by any conventional light scattering measurement, such as the use of a nephelometer. It is also possible to include a further step in which the crystallinity of the products of the solid-state nucleation or precipitation is determined. This step is conveniently performed before selecting the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination for use in the pharmaceutical composition. Crystallinity may be determined, e.g., by birefringence screening.

[0094] Neither the light scattering measurement nor the birefringence screening are invasive measurement techniques. Advantageously, a portion or all of the sample solution does not need to be transferred to a second container and the containers or wells can be sealed with a transparent seal to allow use of these techniques.

[0095] In its most general aspect, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition which includes an api having a low aqueous solubility (or a solubility as disclosed herein). Typically, low aqueous solubility in the present application refers to a compound having a solubility in water which is less than or equal to 10 mg/ml, when measured at 37° C., and preferably less than or equal to 1 mg/ml. The invention relates more particularly to drugs which have a solubility of not greater than 0.1 mg/ml. The invention further relates to compounds that cannot be maintained as a supersaturated solution in gastric or intestinal fluid or in SGF or SIF. Such drugs include some sulfonamide drugs, such as the benzene sulfonamides, particularly those pyrazolylbenzenesulfonamides discussed above, which include Cox-2 inhibitors. Disclosed herein are stable crystalline metal salts of pyrazolylbenzenesulfonamides such as celecoxib. Such metal salts include alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts, preferably sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium and magnesium salts.

[0096] It is preferred that the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration. Drugs according to the invention may be prepared in a form having reduced time to onset of therapeutic effectiveness (the time when an effect for which the drug is administered can be identified or measured, e.g., the point in time when a reduction in fever or pain felt by a patient begins to occur) or increased bioavailability. The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention are therefore particularly suitable for administration to human subjects.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0097] FIG. 1 shows a differential scanning calorimetry trace of the sodium salt of celecoxib prepared by Example 1 between 50° C. and 110° C.

[0098] FIG. 2 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of the sodium salt of celecoxib prepared by Example 1, which was conducted from about 30° C. to about 160° C.

[0099] FIG. 3 shows a powder x-ray diffraction plot of the sodium salt of celecoxib prepared by Example 1.

[0100] FIGS. 4A and 4B show pharmacokinetics in male Sprague-Dawley rats after 5 mg/kg oral doses of the celecoxib crystal form used in the marketed formulations and the sodium salt of 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide, as obtained following the protocol described in Example 4.

[0101] FIG. 5 shows the mean pharmacokinetic parameters (and standard deviations therefor) of celecoxib in the plasma of male dogs following a single oral or single intravenous dose of celecoxib or celecoxib sodium. The maximum serum concentration and bioavailability of orally-administered celecoxib sodium was about three- and two-fold greater, respectively, than a roughly equal dose of orally-administered celecoxib, and the maximum serum concentration of celecoxib sodium was reached 40% faster than for celecoxib.

[0102] FIG. 6 shows the mean concentrations of celecoxib in plasma following the administration of a single oral dose of celecoxib or celecoxib sodium or a single intravenous dose of celecoxib in male dogs.

[0103] FIG. 7 shows the effect of varying ratios of ethylene glycol to propylene glycol subunits in poloxamers on the concentration of celecoxib sodium in solution.

[0104] FIG. 8 shows the effect of different celluloses on the dissolution of various composition comprising equal weights of cellulose (hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC, 100,000 kDa), low-viscosity hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (ld HPMC, viscosity was 80-120 cps), high-viscosity hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (hd HPMC, viscosity was 15,000 cps), microcrystalline cellulose (Avicel PH200)), d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate (vitamin E TGPS), and celecoxib sodium.

[0105] FIG. 9 shows the dissolution at 37° C. for compositions comprising various weight ratios of d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate (vitamin E TGPS), hydroxypropylcellulose and celecoxib sodium.

[0106] FIG. 10 shows the dissolution profile of celecoxib sodium in simulated gastric fluid (SGF) from solid mixtures with excipients at room temperature. The legend indicates the excipient and the weight ratio of excipient to celecoxib sodium (if unmarked, 1:1). Excipients include polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP), poloxamer 188 (P188), poloxamer 237 (P237), d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate (vit E TGPS), and Gelucire™ 50/13.

[0107] FIG. 11 shows the effect of Avicel microcrystalline cellulose and silica gel on the dissolution of mixtures of celecoxib sodium, d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate (vit E TGPS), and hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC) mixtures in simulated gastric fluid (SGF) at 37° C. The legend indicates the weight ratios of the components.

[0108] FIG. 12 shows the dissolution of celecoxib sodium (TPI336Na) in 5-times diluted simulated gastric fluid, with excipients including d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate (vitamin E TGPS), hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC), and poloxamer 237. the legend indicates the weight ratios of the components.

[0109] FIGS. 13A and 13B shows the particle-induced x-ray diffraction (PXRD) and raman spectra, respectively, of the sodium salt of celecoxib prepared by the method of Example 6.

[0110] FIG. 14 shows a differential scanning calorimetry analysis of celecoxib lithium salt MO-116-49B.

[0111] FIG. 15 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of celecoxib lithium salt MO-116-49B.

[0112] FIG. 16 shows the RAMAN spectrum of celecoxib lithium salt MO-116-49B.

[0113] FIG. 17 shows the PXRD spectrum of celecoxib lithium salt MO-116-49B.

[0114] FIG. 18 shows a differential scanning calorimetry analysis of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-49A.

[0115] FIG. 19 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-49A.

[0116] FIG. 20 shows the RAMAN spectrum of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-49A.

[0117] FIG. 21 shows the PXRD spectrum of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-49A.

[0118] FIG. 22 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-55D.

[0119] FIG. 23 shows the RAMAN spectrum of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-55D.

[0120] FIG. 24 shows the PXRD spectrum of celecoxib potassium salt MO-116-55D.

[0121] FIG. 25 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of celecoxib calcium salt MO-116-62A.

[0122] FIG. 26 shows the RAMAN spectrum of celecoxib calcium salt MO-116-62A.

[0123] FIG. 27 shows the PXRD spectrum of celecoxib calcium salt MO-116-62A.

[0124] FIG. 28 shows the PXRD spectrum of commercially-available celecoxib.

[0125] FIG. 29 shows the RAMAN spectrum of commercially-available celecoxib.

[0126] FIG. 30 shows crystal retardation time for celecoxib as a function of excipient in simulated gastric fluid (SGF).

[0127] FIG. 31 shows interfacial tension of selected PLURONIC excipients in water.

[0128] FIG. 32 shows dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate from compositions containing PLURONIC P123 and F127.

[0129] FIG. 33 shows dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate from PLURONIC P123, F127 and F87, in the presence of HPC.

[0130] FIG. 34 shows dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate using PLURONIC F1 27, HPC and a granulating fluid.

[0131] FIG. 35 shows dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate using PLURONIC F127 and HPC in a compact formulation.

[0132] FIG. 36 shows a flowchart outlining a process according to the invention.

[0133] FIG. 37 shows a platemap for an automated liquid dispenser.

[0134] FIG. 38 shows a trace of light scatter against time in an assay according to the invention.

[0135] FIG. 39 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of a propylene glycol solvate of a celecoxib sodium salt.

[0136] FIG. 40 shows the PXRD spectrum of a propylene glycol solvate of a celecoxib sodium salt.

[0137] FIG. 41 shows a thermogravimetric analysis a propylene glycol solvate of a celecoxib potassium salt.

[0138] FIG. 42 shows the PXRD spectrum of a propylene glycol solvate of a celecoxib potassium salt.

[0139] FIG. 43 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of a propylene glycol solvate of a celecoxib lithium salt.

[0140] FIG. 44 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of the sodium salt propylene glycol trihydrate of celecoxib prepared by Example 21.

[0141] FIG. 45 shows a powder X-ray diffraction plot of the sodium salt propylene glycol trihydrate of celecoxib prepared by Example 21a.

[0142] FIG. 46 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of the sodium salt propylene glycol trihydrate of celecoxib prepared by Example 21b.

[0143] FIG. 47 shows a powder X-ray diffraction plot of the sodium salt propylene glycol trihydrate of celecoxib prepared by Example 21b.

[0144] FIG. 48 show a DSC trace of the sodium salt isopropyl alcohol solvate of celecoxib prepared by Example 22.

[0145] FIG. 49 shows a thermogravimetric analysis of the sodium salt isopropyl alcohol solvate of celecoxib prepared by Example 22, which was conducted from about 30° to about 160° C.

[0146] FIG. 50 shows a powder X-ray diffraction plot of the sodium salt of isopropyl alcohol solvate of celecoxib prepared by Example 22.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0147] In its most general aspect, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition that includes an api having a low aqueous solubility, e.g., in gastric fluid conditions. Typically, low aqueous solubility in the present application refers to a compound having a solubility in water which is less than or equal to 10 mg/ml, when measured at 37° C., and preferably less than or equal to 5 mg/ml or 1 mg/ml. "Low aqueous solubility" can further be defined as less than or equal to 900, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200

150, 100, 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20 micrograms/ml, or further 10, 5 or 1 micrograms/ml, or further 900, 800, 700, 600, 500, 400, 300, 200, 150, 100, 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, or 10 ng/ml, or less than 10 ng/ml when measured at 37° C. Further aqueous solubility can be measured in simulated gastric fluid (SGF) rather than water. SGF (non-diluted) of the present invention is made by combining 1 g/L Triton X-100 and 2 g/L NaCl in water and adjusting the pH with 20 mM to obtain a solution with a final pH=1.7.

[0148] The pH may also be specified as 1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 6, 6.5, 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5, 9, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11, 11.5, or 12. APIs which have a solubility of not greater than 0.1 mg/ml include some sulfonamide drugs, such as the benzene sulfonamides, particularly those pyrazolylbenzene-sulfonamides discussed above, which include Cox-2 inhibitors, are included in the present invention. Disclosed herein are stable crystalline metal salts and co-crystals of pyrazolylbenzenesulfonamides such as celecoxib. Such metal salts include alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salts, preferably sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium and magnesium salts.

[0149] The precipitation retardant used in the present invention can be chosen from a wide range of surfactants (see e.g., **FIG. 30**). Embodiments include where the surfactant is non-ionic or wherein the surfactant is ionic. In embodiments of the present invention, the interfacial tension of the recrystallization/precipitation retardant (e.g., poloxamers) is less than 10 dyne/cm when measured as a concentration of 0.1% w/w in water as compared to mineral oil at 25° C. and/or the surface tension of the recrystallization/precipitation retardant (e.g., poloxamers) is less than 42 dyne/cm when measured as a concentration of 0.1% w/w in water. In other embodiments of the invention the interfacial tension is less than 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 9, 8, 7, or 6 dynes/cm or the surface tension is less than 45, 44, 43, 41, 40, 39, 38, 37, 36, or 35 dynes/cm. In other embodiments, the surfactant is a poloxamer. A poloxamer comprises an ethylene oxide-propylene oxide block copolymer, which preferably has the structure $(\text{PEG})_x\text{-(PPG)}_y\text{-(PEG)}_z$, where x, y and z are integers and x is usually equal to z. A preferred form of poloxamer are those obtainable from BASF designated "PLURONIC"®. The invention is not, however, limited to the PLURONIC series as similar poloxamers obtainable from other sources may be used. Examples of PLURONIC poloxamers according to the invention include PLURONIC L122, PLURONIC P123, PLURONIC F127 (Poloxamer 407), PLURONIC L72, PLURONIC P105, PLURONIC LP2, PLURONIC P104, PLURONIC F108 (Poloxamer 338), PLURONIC P103, PLURONIC L44 (Poloxamer 124), PLURONIC F68 (Poloxamer 188), and PLURONIC F87 (Poloxamer 237). A specific poloxamer and its corresponding PLURONIC, i.e., the generic and tradename, may be used interchangeably throughout.

[0150] The optional third component of the pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention comprises a recrystallization/precipitation retardant enhancer. An enhancer is a compound capable of increasing the effectiveness of the recrystallization/precipitation retardant in inhibiting, preventing or at least reducing the extent of crystallization or precipitation of the drug of low aqueous solubility, usually when diluted such as following oral administration. In one embodiment the enhancer does not

act as a recrystallization/precipitation retardant alone. In another embodiment the enhancer has no effect or a negative effect in an in vitro recrystallization/precipitation assay, but increases the effectiveness of the recrystallization/precipitation retardant in an in vitro or in situ dissolution assay. Cellulose esters, such as hydroxypropyl cellulose are particularly useful enhancer according to the present invention. Cellulose esters vary in the chain length of their cellulosic backbone and consequently, in their viscosity as measured for example at a 2% by weight concentration in water at 20 degrees C. Lower viscosities are normally preferred to higher viscosities in the present invention. In embodiments of the present invention the cellulose ester, such as HPC, has a viscosity, 2% in water, of about 100 to about 100,000 cP or about 1000 to about 15,000 cP. In other embodiments the viscosity is less than 1,500,000, 1,000,000, 500,000, 100,000, 75,000, 50,000, 35,000, 25,000, 20,000, 17,500, 15,000, 12,500, 11,000, 10,500, 9,000, 8,000, 7,000, 6,000, 5,000, 4,000, 3,000, 2,000, 1,000, 750, 500, or 250 cP, or has a viscosity in a range selected from any two preceding integers.

[0151] Enhancers are also useful in delaying the T_{max} and/or increasing the amount of time the API concentration is above $\frac{1}{2} T_{\text{max}}$, thus acting to smooth out the curve. Preferred enhancers increase the amount of time the API concentration is above $\frac{1}{2} T_{\text{max}}$ by 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%, three fold or more than three fold. In a preferred embodiment, the composition has both a reduced time to T_{max} and remains at $\frac{1}{2} T_{\text{max}}$ longer than the free acid or in the same composition except the salt or co-crystal is replaced by the free acid.

[0152] The ratio of component a:b:c (API: recrystallization/precipitation retardant;enhancer) as exemplified herein is approximately 1:1:1 (+/-0.2 for the recrystallization/precipitation retardant and enhancer). However, the ratio can be adjusted to suit the application. For example, the amount of recrystallization/precipitation retardant or enhancer may need to be decreased, and even decreased below the optimum concentration in order to decrease the amount of excipients in the administered form of the composition, such as a tablet or capsule. In one embodiment the unit dosage form comprises an amount of precipitation retardant surfactant that is at or above an amount needed for the retardant to reach its critical micell concentration (CMC) in 100 ml in 500 ml H₂O or SGF, or H₂O or SGF or in 1L H₂O or SGF. It is noted the poloxamers may not form true micells but do form analogous structures which are considered micells for the purpose of the present invention.

[0153] The composition may further comprise a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent, excipient or carrier and such additional components are discussed in further detail below. One such additional component comprises a granulating fluid-like liquid, such as poloxamer 124, PEG 200 or PEG 400, that forms an intimate contact between the API, recrystallization/precipitation retardant and optional enhancer by binding or partially dissolving them. Preferably the composition remains in a solid, semi-solid or paste, although an embodiment is drawn to wherein the composition is at least 25%, 50%, 75% or nearly or fully dissolved. Any pharmaceutically acceptable liquid may be used as long as it does not cause conversion of the salt or co-crystal form to the free form in the solid state. Some non-limiting examples include methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, higher alcohols, propylene

glycol, ethyl caprylate, propylene glycol laurate, PEG, diethyl glycol monoethyl ether (DGME), tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether, triethylene glycol monoethyl ether, and polysorbate 80. The presence of the granulated fluid-like liquid increases the dissolution of the api, possibly by delaying the contact between the api and the dissolution medium until the surfactant dissolves to a significant extent, thus delaying recrystallization/precipitation. The use of a granulating fluid-like liquid is particularly useful when the api and recrystallization/precipitation retardant are solids.

[0154] As an alternative embodiment to increase supersaturation of the api, the pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a compact whereby, during the process of producing the pharmaceutical composition, the components are compacted together. Compaction may perform a similar role to that performed by the granulating fluid. Retarded dissolution or a smoothing out of the curve may be limited, if required, by using a disintegrant in the compact.

[0155] In a further embodiment the api and crystallization/precipitation retardant (and optional enhancer), when mixed forms a paste or non-aqueous solution. An adherent mass of components may be produced if a paste is used which is thought to delay dissolution of the api by allowing the surfactant to dissolve first. This is thought to promote dissolution of the api.

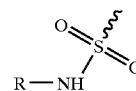
[0156] Normally the compound(s) and the api of the present invention are intimately associated as a pharmaceutical composition. An "intimate association" in the present context includes, for example, the pharmaceutical admixed with the recrystallization/precipitation retardant inhibitor, the pharmaceutical embedded or incorporated in the retardant, the compound forming a coating on particles of the pharmaceutical or vice versa, and a substantially homogeneous dispersion of the pharmaceutical throughout the compound(s).

[0157] Where the pharmaceutical composition includes a Cox-2 inhibitor, a method of treating a subject is provided in a further aspect of the invention, in which the subject may be suffering from pain, inflammation, cancer or pre-cancer such as intestinal or colonic polyps. The method comprises administering to the subject a pharmaceutical composition as described herein.

[0158] It is preferred that the pharmaceutical composition is formulated for oral administration. Drugs according to the invention may be prepared in a form having an increased time to onset of therapeutic effectiveness and likely having increased bioavailability. The pharmaceutical compositions according to the invention are therefore particularly suitable for administration to human subjects.

[0159] The methods and compositions of the present invention relate to improving solubility, dissolution and bioavailability of pharmaceuticals. The present invention further relates to improving the performance of pharmaceutical compounds that are free acids in their neutral state or that initially dissolve but then recrystallize in gastric fluid conditions. Further embodiments relate to pharmaceuticals with an aminosulfonyl functional group.

[0160] The term "aminosulfonyl functional group" herein refers to a functional group having the following structure:

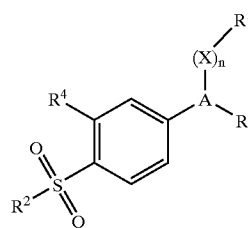


[0161] Wherein the wavy line represents a bond by which the functional group is attached to the rest of the drug molecule; and R is hydrogen or a substituent that preserves ability of polyethylene glycol or a polyethylene glycol degradation product to react with the amino group adjacent to R to form an addition compound. Illustrative examples of such substituents include partially unsaturated heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, alkylcarbonyl, formyl, halo, alkyl, haloalkyl, oxo, cyano, nitro, carboxyl, phenyl, alkoxy, aminocarbonyl, alkoxy carbonyl, carboxyalkyl, cyanoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyl, alkoxyalkoxyalkyl, haloalkylsulfonyloxy, carboxyalkoxyalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkynyl, heterocycloxy, alkylthio, cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, aralkyl, heterocyclylalkyl, heteroarylcarbonyl, alkylthioalkyl, arylcarbonyl, aralkylcarbonyl, aralkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkylthioalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkoxy carbonylalkyl, aminocarbonylalkyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, N-arylaminocarbonyl, N-alkyl-N-arylaminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonylalkyl, alkylamino, N-aryl amino, N-aralkyl amino, N-alkyl-N-aralkyl amino, N-alkyl-N-aryl amino, aminoalkyl, alkylaminoalkyl, N-aryl aminoalkyl, N-aralkyl aminoalkyl, N-alkyl-N-aralkyl aminoalkyl, N-alkyl-N-aryl aminoalkyl, aryloxy, aralkoxy, arylthio, aralkylthio, alkylsulfmyl, alkylsulfonyl, etc.

[0162] Non-limiting illustrative examples of aminosulfonyl-comprising drugs include ABT-751 of Eisai (N-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)amino)-3-pyridyl)-4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide); alpiropride; amosulalol; amprenavir; ainsacrine; argatroban; asulacrine; azosemide; BAY-38-4766 of Bayer (N-[4-[[[5-(dimethylamino)-1-naphthalenyl]sulfonyl]amino]phenyl]-3-hydroxy-2,2-dimethylpropanamide); bendroflumethiazide; BMS-193884 of Bristol Myers Squibb (N-(3,4-dimethyl-5-isoxazolyl)-4'-(-2-oxazolyl)-[1,1'-biphenyl]-2-sulfonamide); bosentan; bumetide; celecoxib; chlorthalidone; delavirdine; deracoxib dofetilide; domitroban; dorzolamide; dronedarone; E-7070 of Eisai (N-(3-chloro-1H-indol-7-yl)-1,4-benzene-disulfonamide); EF-7412 of Schwartz Pharma (N-3-[4-(4-(tetrahydro-1,3-dioxo-1H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-2(3H)-yl)butyl]-1-piperazinyl]phenyl]ethanesulfonamide); fenquizon; furosemide; glibenclamide; gliclazide; glimepiride; glipentide; glipizide; gliquidone; glisolamide; GW-8510 of Glaxo SmithKline (4-[[[6,7-dihydro-7-oxo-8H-pyrrolo[2,3-g]benzothiazol-8-ylidene)methyl]amino]-N-2-pyridinylbenzenesulfonamide); GYKI-16638 of Ivax (N-[4-[2-[2-(2,6-dimethoxyphenoxy)-1-methylethyl]methylamino]ethyl]phenyl]methanesulfonamide); HMR-1098 of Aventis (5-chloro-2-methoxy-N-[2-[4-methoxy-3-[[[(methylamino)thioxomethyl]amino]sulfonyl]phenyl]ethyl]benzamide); hydrochlorothiazide; ibutilide; indapamide; IS-741 of Ishihara (N-[2-[(ethylsulfonfyl) amino]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-3-pyridinyl]cyclohexanecarboxamide); JTE-522 of Japan Tobacco (4-(4-cyclo-

hexyl-2-methyl-5-oxazolyl)-2-fluorobenzenesulfonamide); KCB-328 of Chugai (N-[3-amino-4-[2-[[2,3,4-dimethoxyphenyl]ethyl]methylamino]ethoxy]phenyl]methanesulfonamide); KT2-962 of Kotobuki (3-[4-[[4-(chlorophenyl)sulfonyl]amino]butyl]-6-(1-methylethyl)-1-azulene sulfonic acid); levosulpiride; LY-295501 (N-[[3,4-dichlorophenyl]amino]carbonyl]-2,3-dihydro-5-benzofuransulfonamide) and LY-404187 (N-2-(4-(4-cyanophenyl)phenyl)propyl-2-propanesulfonamide) of Eli Lilly; metolazone; naratriptan; nimesulide; NS-49 of Nippon ((R)-N-[3-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]methanesulfonamide); ONO-8711 of Ono ((5Z)-6-[(2R,3S)-3-[[[(4-chloro-2-methylphenyl)sulfonyl]amino]methyl]bicyclo[2.2.2]oct-2-yl]-5-hexenoic acid); pirtanide; PNU-103657 of Pharmacia (1-[5-methanesulfonamidoindol-2-ylcarbonyl]-4-(N-methyl-N-(3-(2-methylpropyl)-2-pyridinyl)amino)pyrrolidine); polythiazide; ramatroban; RO-61-1790 of Hoffmann LaRoche (N-[6-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-5-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-2-[2-(1H-tetrazol-5-yl)-4-pyridinyl]-4-pyrimidinyl]-5-methyl-2-pyridinesulfonamide); RPR-130737 (4-hydroxy-3-[2-oxo-3(S)-[5-(3-pyridyl)thiophen-2-ylsulfonamido]pyrrolidin-1-ylmethyl]benzamide) and RPR-208707 of Aventis; S-18886 (3-[(6-(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonylamino)-2-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphth-1-yl]propionic acid) and S-32080 (3-[6-(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonylamido]-2-propyl-3-(3-pyridyl-methyl)-5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthalen-1-yl]propionic acid) of Server; S-36496 of Kaken (2-sulfonyl-[N-(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonylamino-butyl-N-[(4-cyclobutylthiazol-2-yl)ethenylphenyl-3-yl-methyl]]aminobenzoic acid); sampatrilat; SB-203208 of Glaxo Smith Kline (L-phenylalanine, b-methyl-, (4aR,6S,7R,7aS)-4-(aminocarbonyl)-7-[[[[(2S,3S)-2-amino-3-methyl-1-oxopentyl]amino]sulfonyl]acetyl]amino]-7-carboxy-2,4a,5,6,7a-hexahydro-2-methyl-1H-cyclopenta[c]pyridine-6-yl ester, (bS)-); SE-170 of DuPont (2-(5-amidino-1H-indol-3-yl)N-[2'-(aminosulfonyl)-3-bromo(1,1'-biphenyl)-4-yl]acetamide); sivelestat; SJA-6017 of Senju (N-(4-fluorophenylsulfonfyl)-L-valyl-L-leucinal); SM-19712 of Sumitomo (4-chloro-N-[[4-(cyano-3-methyl-1-phenyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl) amino]carbonyl]benzenesulfonamide); sonepiprazole; sotalol; sulfadiazine; sulfaguanole; sulfasalazine; sulpiride; sulprostone; sumatriptan; T-614 of Toyama (N-[3-(formylamino)-4-oxo-6-phenoxy-4H-1-benzopyran-7-yl]-methanesulfonamide); T-138067 (2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-N-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)benzenesulfonamide) and T-900607 (2,3,4,5,6-pentafluoro-N-3-ureido-4-methoxyphenyl)benzenesulfonamide) of Tularik; TAK-661 of Takeda (2,2-dimethyl-3-[[7-(1-methylethyl)[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-b]pyridazin-6-yl]oxy]-1-propanesulfonamide); tamsulosin; tezocentan; tipranavir; tirofiban; torasemide; trichloromethiazide; tripamide; valdecoxib; veralipride; xipamide; Z-335 of Zeria (2-[2-(4-chlorophenyl)sulfonylaminoethyl]indan-5-yl]acetic acid); zafirlukast; zonisamide; and salts thereof.

[0163] In a preferred embodiment, the aminosulfonyl-comprising drug is a selective COX-2 inhibitory drug of low water solubility. Suitable selective COX-2 inhibitory drugs are compounds having the formula (IV):



[0164] wherein:

[0165] A is a substituent selected from partially unsaturated or unsaturated heterocyclyl and partially unsaturated or unsaturated carbocyclic rings, preferably a heterocyclyl group selected from pyrazolyl, furanoyl, isoxazolyl, pyridinyl, cyclopentenonyl and pyridazinonyl groups;

[0166] X is O, S or CH₂;

[0167] n is 0 or 1;

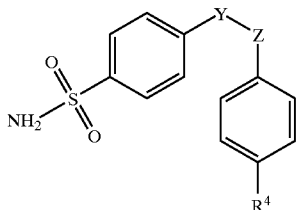
[0168] R¹ is at least one substituent selected from heterocyclyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and aryl, and is optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from alkyl, haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, nitro, alkoxyalkyl, alkylsulfinyl, halo, alkoxy and alkylthio;

[0169] R² is NH₂ group;

[0170] R³ is one or more radicals selected from hydrido, halo, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, oxo, cyano, carboxyl, cyanoalkyl, heterocycloxy, alkoxy, alkylthio, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, haloalkyl, heterocyclyl, cycloalkenyl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, acyl, alkylthioalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, arylcarbonyl, aralkylcarbonyl, aralkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, arylthioalkyl, aryloxyalkyl, aralkylthioalkyl, aralkoxyalkyl, alkoxyaralkoxyalkyl, alkoxy, carbonylalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminocarbonylalkyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, N-arylaminocarbonyl, N-alkyl-N-arylaminocarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonylalkyl, carboxyalkyl, alkylamino, N-arylamino, N-aralkylamino, N-alkyl-N-aralkylamino, N-alkyl-N-arylaminocarbonyl, aminoalkyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, N-arylaminocarbonyl, N-aralkylaminocarbonyl, N-alkyl-N-aralkylaminocarbonyl, N-alkyl-N-arylaminocarbonyl, aryloxy, aralkoxy, arylthio, aralkylthio, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, aminosulfonyl, alkylaminosulfonyl, N-arylaminosulfonyl, arylsulfonyl and N-alkyl-N-arylaminosulfonyl, R³ being optionally substituted at a substitutable position with one or more radicals selected from alkyl, haloalkyl, cyano, carboxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, hydroxyl, hydroxyalkyl, haloalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, nitro, alkoxyalkyl, alkylsulfinyl, halo, alkoxy and alkylthio; and

[0171] R⁴ is selected from hydrido and halo.

[0172] Particularly suitable selective COX-2 inhibitory drugs are compounds having the formula (V):



[0173] where R⁴ is hydrogen or a C₁₋₄ alkyl or alkoxy group, X is N or CR⁵ where R⁵ is hydrogen or halogen, and Y and Z are independently carbon or nitrogen atoms defining adjacent atoms of a five-to-six-membered ring that is unsubstituted or substituted at one or more positions with oxo, halo, methyl, or halomethyl groups. Preferred such five-to six-membered rings are cyclopentenone, furanone, methylpyrazole, isoxazole and pyridine rings substituted at no more than one position.

[0174] Illustratively, compositions of the invention are suitable for celecoxib, deracoxib, valdecoxib and JTE-522, more particularly celecoxib, paracoxib and valdecoxib. Other examples of suitable compositions include Acetazolamide CAS Registry Number: 59-66-5, Acetohexamide CAS Registry Number: 968-81-0, Alpiropride CAS Registry Number: 81982-32-3, Althiazide CAS Registry Number: 5588-16-9, Ambuside CAS Registry Number: 3754-19-6, Amidephrine CAS Registry Number: 3354-67-4, Amosulalol CAS Registry Number: 85320-68-9, Amsacrine CAS Registry Number: 51264-14-3, Argatroban CAS Registry Number: 74863-84-6, Azosemide CAS Registry Number: 27589-33-9, Bendroflumethiazide CAS Registry Number: 73-48-3, Benzthiazide CAS Registry Number: 91-33-8, Benzylhydrochlorothiazide CAS Registry Number: 1824-50-6, p-(Benzylsulfonamido)benzoic Acid CAS Registry Number: 536-95-8, Bosentan CAS Registry Number: 147536-97-8, Brinzolamide CAS Registry Number: 138890-62-7 Bumetanide CAS Registry Number: 28395-03-1, Butazolamide CAS Registry Number: 16790-49-1, Buthiazide CAS Registry Number: 2043-38-1, Carbutamide CAS Registry Number: 339-43-5, Celecoxib CAS Registry Number: 169590-42-5, Chloraminophenamide CAS Registry Number: 121-30-2, Chlorothiazide CAS Registry Number: 58-94-6, Chlorpropamide CAS Registry Number: 94-20-2, Chlorthalidone CAS Registry Number: 77-36-1, Clofenamide CAS Registry Number: 671-95-4, Clopamide CAS Registry Number: 636-54-4, Clorexolone CAS Registry Number: 2127-01-7, Cyclopenthiazide CAS Registry Number: 742-20-1, Cyclothiazide CAS Registry Number: 2259-96-3, Daltroban CAS Registry Number: 79094-20-5, Delavirdine CAS Registry Number: 136817-59-9, Diazoxide CAS Registry Number: 364-98-7, Dichlorphenamide CAS Registry Number: 120-97-8, Disulfamide CAS Registry Number: 671-88-5, Dofetilide CAS Registry Number: 115256-11-6, Domitroban CAS Registry Number: 112966-96-8, Dorzolamide CAS Registry Number: 120279-96-1, Ethiazide CAS Registry Number: 1824-58-4, Ethoxzolamide CAS Registry Number: 452-35-7, Fenquizone CAS Registry Number: 20287-37-0, Flumethiazide CAS Registry

Number: 148-56-1, N²-Formylsulfisomidine CAS Registry Number: 795-13-1, Furosemide CAS Registry Number: 54-31-9, Glibornuride CAS Registry Number: 26944-48-9, Gliclazide CAS Registry Number: 21187-98-4, Glimepiride CAS Registry Number: 93479-97-1, Glipizide CAS Registry Number: 29094-61-9, Gliquidone CAS Registry Number: 33342-05-1, Glisoxepid CAS Registry Number: 25046-79-1, N⁴-D-Glucosylsulfanilamide CAS Registry Number: 53274-53-6, Glyburide CAS Registry Number: 10238-21-8, Glybuthiazol(e) CAS Registry Number: 535-65-9, Glybuzole CAS Registry Number: 1492-02-0, Glyhexamide CAS Registry Number: 451-71-8, Glymidine CAS Registry Number: 339-44-6, Glypinamide CAS Registry Number: 1228-19-9, Hydrochlorothiazide CAS Registry Number: 58-93-5, Hydroflumethiazide CAS Registry Number: 135-09-1, Ibutilide CAS Registry Number: 122647-31-8, Indapamide CAS Registry Number: 26807-65-8, Mafenide CAS Registry Number: 138-39-6, Mefruside CAS Registry Number: 7195-27-9, Methazolamide CAS Registry Number: 554-57-4, Methyclothiazide CAS Registry Number: 135-07-9, Metolazone CAS Registry Number: 17560-51-9, Naratriptan CAS Registry Number: 121679-13-8, Nimesulide CAS Registry Number: 51803-78-2, Noprylsulfamide CAS Registry Number: 576-97-6, Parafutizide CAS Registry Number: 1580-83-2, Phenbutamide CAS Registry Number: 3149-00-6, Phenosulfazole CAS Registry Number: 515-54-8, Phthalylsulfacetamide CAS Registry Number: 131-69-1, Phthalylsulfathiazole CAS Registry Number: 85-73-4, Sulfacetamide CAS Registry Number: 144-80-9, Sulfachlorpyridazine CAS Registry Number: 80-32-0, Sulfachrysoidine CAS Registry Number: 485-41-6, Sulfacytine CAS Registry Number: 17784-12-2, Sulfadiazine CAS Registry Number: 68-35-9, Sulfadiazineamide CAS Registry Number: 115-68-4, Sulfadimethoxine CAS Registry Number: 122-11-2, Sulfadoxine CAS Registry Number: 2447-57-6, Piretanide CAS Registry Number: 55837-27-9, Polythiazide CAS Registry Number: 346-18-9, Quinethazone CAS Registry Number: 73-49-4 Ramatroban CAS Registry Number: 116649-85-5, Salazosulfadimidine CAS Registry Number: 2315-08-4, Sampatrilat CAS Registry Number: 129981-36-8, Sematilide CAS Registry Number: 101526-83-4, Sivelestat CAS Registry Number: 127373-66-4, Sotalol CAS Registry Number: 3930-20-9, Soteranol CAS Registry Number: 13642-52-9, Succinylsulfathiazole CAS Registry Number: 116-43-8, Suclofenide CAS Registry Number: 30279-49-3, Sulfabenzamide CAS Registry Number: 127-71-9, Sulfaethidole CAS Registry Number: 94-19-9, Sulfaguanole CAS Registry Number: 27031-08-9, Sulfalene CAS Registry Number: 152-47-6, Sulfaloxic Acid CAS Registry Number: 14376-16-0, Sulfamerazine CAS Registry Number: 127-79-7, Sulfameter CAS Registry Number: 651-06-9, Sulfamethazine CAS Registry Number: 57-68-1, Sulfamethizole CAS Registry Number: 144-82-1, Sulfamethomidine CAS Registry Number: 3772-76-7, Sulfamethoxazole CAS Registry Number: 723-46-6, Sulfamethoxypyridazine CAS Registry Number: 80-35-3, Sulfametrole CAS Registry Number: 32909-92-5, Sulfamidochrysoidine CAS Registry Number: 103-12-8, Sulfamoxole CAS Registry Number: 729-99-7, Sulfanilamide CAS Registry Number: 63-74-1, 4-Sulfanilamidosalicylic Acid CAS Registry Number: 6202-21-7, N⁴-Sulfanilylsulfanilamide CAS Registry Number: 547-52-4, Sulfanilylurea CAS Registry Number: 547-44-4, N-Sulfanilyl-3,4-xylamide CAS Registry Number: 120-34-3, Sul-

faperine CAS Registry Number: 599-88-2, Sulfaphenazole CAS Registry Number: 526-08-9, Sulfaproxyline CAS Registry Number: 116-42-7, Sulfapyrazine CAS Registry Number: 116-44-9, Sulfapyridine CAS Registry Number: 144-83-2, Sulfarside CAS Registry Number: 1134-98-1, Sulfasalazine, CAS Registry Number: 599-79-1, Sulfasomizole CAS Registry Number: 632-00-8, Sulfasymazine CAS Registry Number: 1984-94-7, Sulfathiazole CAS Registry Number: 72-14-0, Sulfathiourea CAS Registry Number: 515-49-1, Sulfisomidine CAS Registry Number: 515-64-0, Sulfisoxazole CAS Registry Number: 127-69-5, Sulpiride CAS Registry Number: 15676-16-1, Sulprostone CAS Registry Number: 60325-46-4, Sulthiame CAS Registry Number: 61-56-3, Sumatriptan CAS Registry Number: 103628-46-2, Tainsulosin CAS Registry Number: 106133-20-4, Taurolidine CAS Registry Number: 19388-87-5, Teclotiazide CAS Registry Number: 4267-05-4, Tevenel® CAS Registry Number: 4302-95-8, Tirofiban CAS Registry Number: 144494-65-5, Tolazamide CAS Registry Number: 1156-19-0, Tolbutamide CAS Registry Number: 64-77-7, Tolecyclamide CAS Registry Number: 664-95-9, Torsemide CAS Registry Number: 56211-40-6, Trichlormethiazide CAS Registry Number: 133-67-5, Tripamide CAS Registry Number: 73803-48-2, Veralipride CAS Registry Number: 66644-81-3, Xipamide CAS Registry Number: 14293-44-8, Zafirlukast CAS Registry Number: 107753-78-6, Zonisamide CAS Registry Number: 68291-97-4.

[0175] In a particularly preferred embodiment, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention comprise a salt of celecoxib, (e.g., sodium, lithium, potassium or calcium salt). The salt may be significantly more soluble in water than presently-marketed neutral celecoxib. Due to the high pK_a of celecoxib (approximately 11), salts only form under strongly basic conditions. Typically, more than about one equivalent of a base is required to convert celecoxib to its salt form. A suitable aqueous solution for converting celecoxib to a salt has a pH of about 11.0 or greater, about 11.5 or greater, about 12 or greater, or about 13 or greater. Typically, the pH of such a solution is about 12 to about 13. Although celecoxib is a preferred embodiment, the invention includes other pharmaceutical drugs with a pK_a greater than 9, 9.5, 10, 10.5, 11, 11.5, 12, 12.5, or 13. The drug may normally be in a neutral form or a salt form may already exist.

[0176] Salts of the pharmaceutical, such as celecoxib, are formed by reaction of the pharmaceutical with an acceptable base. Acceptable bases include, but are not limited to, metal hydroxides and alkoxides. Metals include alkali metals (sodium, potassium, lithium, cesium), alkaline earth metals (magnesium, calcium), zinc, aluminum, and bismuth. Alkoxides include methoxide, ethoxide, n-propoxide, isopropoxide and t-butoxide. Additional bases include arginine, procaine, and other molecules having amino or guanidinium moieties with sufficiently high pK_a 's (e.g., pK_a 's greater than about 11, pK_a 's greater than about 11.5, or pK_a 's greater than about 12), along with compounds having a carbon-alkali metal bond (e.g., t-butyl lithium). Sodium hydroxide and sodium ethoxide are preferred bases. The amount of base used to form a salt is typically about one or more, about two or more, about three or more, about four or more, about five or more, or about ten or more equivalents relative to the pharmaceutical. Preferably, about three to about five equivalents of one or more bases are reacted with the pharmaceutical to form a salt.

[0177] A pharmaceutical salt can be transformed into a second pharmaceutical salt by transmetallation or another process that replaces the cation of the first pharmaceutical salt. In one example, a sodium salt of pharmaceutical is prepared and is subsequently reacted with a second salt such as an alkaline earth metal halide (e.g., $MgBr_2$, $MgCl_2$, $CaCl_2$, $CaBr_2$), an alkaline earth metal sulfate or nitrate (e.g., $Mg(NO_3)_2$, $Mg(SO_4)_2$, $Ca(NO_3)_2$, $Ca(SO_4)_2$), or an alkaline metal salt of an organic acid (e.g. calcium formate, magnesium formate, calcium acetate, magnesium acetate, calcium propionate, magnesium propionate) to form an alkaline earth metal salt of the pharmaceutical.

[0178] In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the pharmaceutical salts are substantially pure. A salt that is substantially pure can be greater than about 80% pure, greater than about 85% pure, greater than about 90% pure, greater than about 95% pure, greater than about 98% pure, or greater than about 99% pure. Purity of a salt can be measured with respect to the amount of salt (as opposed to unreacted neutral pharmaceutical or base) or can be measured with respect to a specific polymorph, co-crystal, solvate, desolvate, hydrate, dehydrate, or anhydrous form of a salt.

[0179] A pharmaceutical salt as described herein may be significantly more soluble in water than the existing neutral form, such as the presently-marketed neutral celecoxib, and is typically at least about twice, at least about three times, at least about five times, at least about ten times, at least about twenty times, at least about fifty times, or one at least about hundred times more or soluble in water or SGF than the neutral form, such as celecoxib marketed by Pfizer Inc. and G. D. Searle & Co. (Pharmacia Corporation), and described at pages 2676-2680 and 2780-2784 of the 2002 edition of the Physicians Desk Reference (also referred to herein as presently-marketed celecoxib). The solubility depends on whether the salt is tested alone, or as a formulation further comprising the recrystallization/precipitation retardants and enhancers of the invention.

[0180] After dissolution, typically in an aqueous or partially-aqueous solution (e.g., where one or more polar organic solvents are a co-solvent), the salt can be neutralized by an acid or by dissolved gases such as carbon dioxide. Typically, the pH of such a solution is 11 or less, 10 or less, or 9 or less. Neutralizing the salt results in precipitation of an amorphous or metastable crystalline form of neutral celecoxib. Typically, neutralizing a pharmaceutical salt includes protonating the majority of negatively charged anions. For celecoxib, protonation results in the formation of amorphous and/or metastable crystalline celecoxib, which are "neutral" (i.e., predominantly uncharged). Preferably, the neutral pharmaceutical (including amorphous and/or metastable crystalline forms thereof, such as celecoxib) comprises 10% mol or less of charged molecules. For example, at about pH 2 (e.g., about the pH of the stomach interior), solutions of the sodium salt of celecoxib precipitate immediately as an amorphous form of neutral celecoxib. The amorphous form converts to a neutral metastable crystalline form, which subsequently becomes the stable, needle-like, insoluble form of neutral celecoxib. For example, amorphous neutral celecoxib formed from the salts of the present invention, e.g., the sodium salt of Example 1, converts to metastable crystalline neutral celecoxib over about 5 to about 10 minutes. Amorphous neutral celecoxib

converts to the same more rapidly. Amorphous neutral celecoxib can be characterized by a lack of a regular crystal structure, while metastable crystalline neutral celecoxib can be distinguished from typical crystalline neutral celecoxib by the PXRD pattern of isolated material.

[0181] Amorphous and metastable crystalline forms of neutral celecoxib are more soluble and likely more readily absorbed by a subject than stable crystalline forms of neutral celecoxib, because the energy required for a drug molecule to escape from a stable crystal is greater than the energy required for the same drug molecule to escape from a non-crystalline, amorphous form or a metastable crystalline form. However, the instability of neutral amorphous and neutral metastable crystalline forms makes them difficult to formulate as pharmaceutical compositions. As is described in U.S. Publication No. 2002/0006951, the teachings of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety, without stabilization by a crystallization inhibitor, such as a polymer, amorphous and metastable crystalline neutral celecoxib convert back to a stable, insoluble crystalline form of free neutral celecoxib. These teachings are incomplete and fall far short of the present invention however, as we have surprisingly found that far superior formulations can be made from the combination of a salt or co-crystal, recrystallization/precipitation retardant, and an optional enhancer. Whereas others have focused on the initial solubilization of celecoxib, the present invention is equally concerned with dissolution and recrystallization/precipitation of the drug (See e.g., WO 02/102376 and WO 01/78724). Moreover, until now, no one has disclosed a salt of celecoxib and the vital role it plays in dissolution and recrystallization/precipitation. No one has further taught the addition of an enhancer to a recrystallization/precipitation retardant.

[0182] Further aspects of the invention relate to liquid formulations of compounds of the present invention (e.g. celecoxib). In these aspects, the drug is solubilized either directly with the precipitation retardant or with a solubilizer or solvent. Preferred solubilizers are polyethylene oxides. More preferably, the polyethylene oxide is a surfactant. Preferred ethylene oxides comprise the functional group $-(C_2H_4O)_n-$ where $n \geq 2$. Other preferred polyethylene oxides are poloxamers having the general formula $HO(C_2H_4O)_a(C_3H_6O)_b(C_2H_4O)_cH$ where $a \geq 2$, where $a \geq 3$, where $a \geq 2$ and $b \geq 30$, where $a \geq 2$ and $b \geq 4$, where $a \geq 2$ and $b \geq 50$, where $a \geq 2$ and $b \geq 60$.

[0183] An aminosulfonyl containing api (celecoxib) was crystallized with molecules comprising at least two oxygen atoms (e.g., ether groups) to examine the physical interactions involved in recrystallization retardation by the precipitation retardant. From these results, in one aspect of the present invention the precipitation retardant compounds, preferably surfactants, have the following physical properties or characteristics: The retardant molecule comprises at least one, preferably two, 10, 25, 40, 50, 60, 80, 100 or more functional interacting groups, wherein a functional interacting group comprises two oxygen atoms, with each of the two oxygen atoms interacting (e.g., hydrogen bonding) with the api. Preferably the two oxygen atoms interact with the aminosulfonyl group of the api. Preferably the aminosulfonyl group is $-SO_2NH_2$. The two interacting oxygen atoms are preferably separated by between about 3.6 angstroms to about 5.8 angstroms, about 3.9 angstroms to about 5.5 angstroms, 4.3 to about 5.2 angstroms, 4.6 to about 5.0

angstroms, or about 4.7 to about 4.9 angstroms. In one embodiment, the two oxygen atoms are separated by at least three atoms. In another embodiment, the two oxygen atoms are separated by 5 atoms. In one embodiment of a 5 atom separation, the two oxygen atoms are separated by 4 carbons and one oxygen atom. In a more specific 5 atom separation embodiment, the order of the 5 atoms is $-C-C-O-C-C-$, whereby a single unit of the functional interacting group (including the two interacting oxygen atoms), is $-O-C-C-O-C-C-O-$.

[0184] Glycol ethers can also be used as solubilizers of neutral or other forms of celecoxib include those that conform with the formula:



[0185] Wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkenyl, phenyl or benzyl groups, but no more than one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen; m is an integer of 2 to about 5; and n is an integer of 1 to about 20. It is preferred that one of R^1 and R^2 is a C_{1-4} alkyl group and the other is hydrogen or a C_{1-4} alkyl group; more preferably at least one of R^1 and R^2 is a methyl or ethyl group. It is preferred that m is 2. It is preferred that n is an integer of 1 to about 4, more preferably 2. Glycol ethers, including those of the above formula, can also be specifically excluded from the present invention. Preferably, the glycol ethers are surfactants.

[0186] Compositions of the present invention optionally comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable co-solvents. Non-limiting examples of co-solvents suitable for use in compositions of the present invention include any glycol ether listed above; alcohols, for example ethanol and n-butanol; glycols not listed above; for

[0187] Celecoxib salts are preferred because they are stable, such that they can be formulated as pharmaceutical compositions and stored before administration to a subject. Only after dissolution and subsequent neutralization do the celecoxib salts precipitate as or transform into substantially amorphous neutral and then substantially metastable crystalline neutral forms. Preferably, dissolution and neutralization of celecoxib salts occur in situ in the gastrointestinal tract of a subject (e.g., stomach, duodenum, ileum), such that a maximal amount of amorphous and/or metastable crystalline neutral celecoxib is present after administration (e.g., in vivo), rather than before administration.

[0188] Dissolution Modulation:

[0189] In another aspect of the present invention, the dissolution profile of the api is modulated whereby the aqueous dissolution rate or the dissolution rate in simulated gastric fluid or in simulated intestinal fluid, or in a solvent or plurality of solvents is increased or decreased. Dissolution rate is the rate at which api solids dissolve in a dissolution media. For apis whose absorption rates are faster than the dissolution rates (e.g., steroids), the rate-limiting step in the absorption process is often the dissolution rate. Because of a limited residence time at the absorption site, apis that are not dissolved before they are removed from intestinal absorption site are considered useless. Therefore, the rate of dissolution has a major impact on the performance of apis that are poorly soluble. Because of this factor, the dissolution rate of apis in solid dosage forms is an important, routine, quality control parameter used in the api manufacturing process.

$$\text{Dissolution rate} = K S (C_s - C)$$

[0190] where K is dissolution rate constant, S is the surface area, C_s is the apparent solubility, and C is the concentration of api in the dissolution media. For rapid api absorption, $C_s - C$ is approximately equal to C_s .

[0191] The dissolution rate of apis may be measured by conventional means known in the art.

[0192] The increase in the dissolution rate of a composition of the present invention, as compared to the neutral free form, may be specified, such as by 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, or 100%, or by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, 1000, 10,000, or 100,000 fold greater than the free form in the same solution. Conditions under which the dissolution rate is measured is the same as discussed above. The increase in dissolution may be further specified by the time the composition remains supersaturated.

[0193] Examples of above embodiments includes: compositions with a dissolution rate, at 37 degrees C. and a pH of 7.0, that is increased at least 5 fold over the neutral free form, compositions with a dissolution rate in SGF that is increased at least 5 fold over the neutral free form, compositions with a dissolution rate in SIF that is increased at least 5 fold over the neutral free form.

[0194] The present invention demonstrates that the length of time in which celecoxib or other apis remains in solution can be increased to a surprising high degree by using a salt or co-crystal form with the presence of a recrystallization/precipitation retardant, normally a surfactant (e.g., poloxamer, TPGS, SDS, etc.) and an optional enhancer (e.g., hydroxypropyl cellulose) as discussed herein. The presence of these agents allows the formation of a supersaturated solution of the api and a high concentration of api will remain in solution for an extended period of time. The presence of these components does not preclude the presence of other further agents, including further surfactants such as, polyethyl glycol and polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters. The additional presence of other suitable surfactants is also not precluded and these are listed herein. Further additional agents which might slow the rate of precipitation such as polyvinylpyrrolidone are also not precluded. Neutral free celecoxib, for example, has a solubility in water of less than 1 microgram/ml and cannot be maintained as a supersaturated solution for any appreciable time. The present invention is drawn compositions that can be maintained for a period of time (e.g., 15, 30, 45, 60, mins and longer) as supersaturated solutions at concentrations 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, or 100%, or by 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 250, 300, 350, 400, 500, 1000, 10,000, or 100,000 fold greater than the solubility of the neutral free form in the same solution (e.g., water or SGF).

[0195] The amount of recrystallization/precipitation inhibitor or enhancer may each or together be less than 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, or 90% w/w (recrystallization/precipitation inhibitor or enhancer/pharmaceutical). The % w/w for either or both recrystallization/precipitation inhibitor or enhancer may also be in a range represented by any two integers of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 70, 80, or 90.

[0196] Celecoxib salts of the present invention are typically stable (i.e., more than 90% of the celecoxib salt does not change in composition or crystalline structure) for at least about one week, at least about one month, at least about two months, at least about three months, at least about six months, at least about nine months, at least about one year, or at least about two years at room temperature in the absence of moisture. Room temperature typically ranges from about 15° C. to about 30° C. The absence of moisture, as defined herein, refers to celecoxib salts not contacting quantities of liquid, particularly water or alcohols. For purposes of the present invention, gases such as water vapor are not considered to be moisture.

[0197] The compositions of the present invention, including the active pharmaceutical ingredient (api) and formulations comprising the api, are suitably stable for pharmaceutical use. Preferably, the api or formulations thereof of the present invention are stable such that when stored at 30 deg. C. for 2 years, less than 0.2% of any one degradant is formed. The term degradant refers herein to product(s) of a single type of chemical reaction. For example, if a hydrolysis event occurs that cleaves a molecule into two products, for the purpose of the present invention, it would be considered a single degradant. More preferably, when stored at 40 deg. C. for 2 years, less than 0.2% of any one degradant is formed. Alternatively, when stored at 30 deg. C. for 3 months, less than 0.2% or 0.15%, or 0.1% of any one degradant is formed, or when stored at 40 deg. C. for 3 months, less than 0.2% or 0.15%, or 0.1% of any one degradant is formed. Further alternatively, when stored at 60 deg. C. for 4 weeks, less than 0.2% or 0.15%, or 0.1% of any one degradant is formed. The relative humidity (RH) may be specified as ambient (RH), 75% (RH), or as any single integer between 1 to 99%.

[0198] Bioavailability Modulation:

[0199] The methods of the present invention are used to make a pharmaceutical api formulation with greater solubility, dissolution, and bioavailability, AUC, reduced time to T_{max} , the time to reach peak blood serum levels, and higher C_{max} , the maximum blood serum concentration, when compared to the neutral free form.

[0200] AUC is the area under the plot of plasma concentration of api (not logarithm of the concentration) against time after api administration. The area is conveniently determined by the "trapezoidal rule": the data points are connected by straight line segments, perpendiculars are erected from the abscissa to each data point, and the sum of the areas of the triangles and trapezoids so constructed is computed. When the last measured concentration (C_n , at time t_n) is not zero, the AUC from t_n to infinite time is estimated by C_n/k_{el} .

[0201] The AUC is of particular use in estimating bioavailability of apis, and in estimating total clearance of apis (Cl_T). Following single intravenous doses, $AUC = D/Cl_T$, for single compartment systems obeying first-order elimination kinetics; alternatively, $AUC = C_0/k_{el}$. With routes other than the intravenous, for such systems, $AUC = F \cdot D/Cl_T$, where F is the availability of the api.

[0202] Thus, in a further aspect, the present invention provides a process for modulating the bioavailability of an api when administered in its normal and effective dose

range, whereby the AUC is increased, the time to $T_{\max}$ is reduced, or $C_{\max}$ is increased, which process comprises:

[0203] (1) forming a salt or co-crystal of an api;

[0204] (2) combining the salt or co-crystal with a precipitation retardant, and optionally, further with an enhancer.

[0205] Examples of the above embodiments includes: compositions with a time to $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 10% as compared to the neutral free form, compositions with a time to $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 20% over the free form, compositions with a time to $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 40% over the free form, compositions with a time to $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 50% over the free form, compositions with a $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 60% over the free form, compositions with a $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 70% over the free form, compositions with a $T_{\max}$ that is reduced by at least 80% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 20% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 30% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 40% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 50% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 60% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 70% over the free form, compositions with a $C_{\max}$ that is increased by at least 80% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 10% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 20% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 30% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 40% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 50% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 60% over the free form, compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 70% over the free form, or compositions with an AUC that is increased by at least 80% over the free form.

[0206] The uptake of a drug by a subject can also be assessed in terms of maximum blood serum concentration and time to reach maximum blood serum concentration. Pharmaceutical compositions with a more rapid onset to therapeutic effect typically reach a higher maximum blood serum concentration ($C_{\max}$) a shorter time after oral administration ($T_{\max}$). Preferably, compositions, preferably including salts, of the present invention have a higher $C_{\max}$ and/or a shorter $T_{\max}$ than presently-marketed celecoxib. The $T_{\max}$ for the compositions of the present invention may occur within about 60 minutes, 55 minutes, 50 minutes, 45 minutes, 40 minutes, 35 minutes, 30 minutes, 25 minutes, 20 minutes, 15 minutes, 10 minutes, or within about 5 minutes of administration (e.g., oral administration). Even more preferably, the therapeutic effects of compositions of the present invention begin to occur within about 60 minutes, 55 minutes, 50 minutes, 45 minutes, 40 minutes, 35 minutes, 30 minutes, within about 25 minutes, within about 20 minutes, within about 15 minutes, within about 10 minutes, or within about 5 minutes of administration (e.g., oral administration).

[0207] Compositions of the present invention have a bioavailability greater than the neutral celecoxib and currently marketed CELEBREXTM. In other embodiments, the compositions of the present invention have a bioavailability of at least 50%, 60%, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 87%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, or 99%.

[0208] Ailments treatable with celecoxib and salts thereof of the present invention are discussed below. Treatment of both and chronic pain is a preferred embodiment of the present invention.

[0209] Dose Response Modulation:

[0210] In a further aspect the present invention provides a process for improving the dose response of an api, by making a composition of the present invention.

[0211] Dose response is the quantitative relationship between the magnitude of response and the dose inducing the response and may be measured by conventional means known in the art. The curve relating effect (as the dependent variable) to dose (as the independent variable) for an api-cell system is the "dose-response curve". Typically, the dose-response curve is the measured response to an api plotted against the dose of the api (mg/kg) given. The dose response curve can also be a curve of AUC against the dose of the api given.

[0212] The dose-response curve for presently-marketed celecoxib is nonlinear. Preferably, the dose-response curve for celecoxib salts and co-crystal composition of the present invention are linear or contains a larger linear region than presently-marketed celecoxib. Also, the absorption or uptake of presently-marketed celecoxib depends in part on food effects, such that uptake of celecoxib increases when taken with food, especially fatty food. Preferably, uptake of celecoxib salts of the present invention exhibits a decreased dependence on food, such that the difference in uptake of celecoxib salts when taken with food and when not taken with food is less than the difference in uptake of presently-marketed celecoxib.

[0213] Decreasing Hygroscopicity:

[0214] In a still further aspect the present invention provides for apis with decreased hygroscopicity and a method for decreasing the hygroscopicity of an api by making the same.

[0215] An aspect of the present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition of an api that is less hygroscopic than amorphous or crystalline free form. Hygroscopicity can be assessed by dynamic vapor sorption analysis, in which 5-50 mg of the compound is suspended from a Cahn microbalance. The compound being analyzed should be placed in a non-hygroscopic pan and its weight should be measured relative to an empty pan composed of identical material and having nearly identical size, shape, and weight. Ideally, platinum pans should be used. The pans should be suspended in a chamber through which a gas, such as air or nitrogen, having a controlled and known percent relative humidity (%RH) is flowed until equilibrium criteria are met. Typical equilibrium criteria include weight changes of less than 0.01% change over 3 minutes at constant humidity and temperature. The relative humidity should be measured for samples dried under dry nitrogen to constant weight (<0.01% change in 3 minutes) at 40° C. unless doing so would de-solvate or otherwise convert the material to an amorphous compound. In one aspect, the hygroscopicity of a dried compound can be assessed by increasing the RH from 5 to 95% in increments of 5% RH and then decreasing the RH from 95 to 5% in 5% increments to generate a moisture sorption isotherm. The sample weight should be allowed to equilibrate between each change in %RH. If the

compound deliquesces or becomes amorphous between above 75% RH, but below 95% RH, the experiment should be repeated with a fresh sample and the relative humidity range for the cycling should be narrowed to 5-75% RH or 10-75% RH instead of 5-95%RH. If the sample cannot be dried prior to testing due to lack of form stability, than the sample should be studied using two complete humidity cycles of either 10-75% RH or 5-95% RH, and the results of the second cycle should be used if there is significant weight loss at the end of the first cycle.

[0216] Hygroscopicity can be defined using various parameters. For purposes of the present invention, a non-hygroscopic molecule should not gain or lose more than 1.0%, or more preferably, 0.5% weight at 25degrees C. when cycled between 10 and 75% RH (relative humidity at 25 degrees C.). The non-hygroscopic molecule more preferably should not gain or lose more than 1.0%, or more preferably, 0.5% weight when cycled between 5 and 95%RH at 25 degrees C., or more than 0.25% of its weight between 10 and 75% RH. Most preferably, a non-hygroscopic molecule will not gain or lose more than 0.25% of its weight when cycled between 5 and 95% RH.

[0217] Alternatively, for purposes of the present invention, hygroscopicity can be defined using the parameters of Callaghan et al., Equilibrium moisture content of pharmaceutical excipients, in *Api Dev. Ind. Pharm.*, Vol. 8, pp. 335-369 (1982). Callaghan et al. classified the degree of hygroscopicity into four classes.

Class 1: Non-hygroscopic	Essentially no moisture increases degrees occur at relative humidities below 90%.
Class 2: Slightly hygroscopic	Essentially no moisture increases degrees occur at relative humidities below 80%.
Class 3: Moderately hygroscopic	Moisture content does not increase more than 5% after storage for 1 week at relative humidities below 60%.
Class 4: Very hygroscopic	Moisture content increase may degrees occur at relative humidities as low as 40 to 50%.

[0218] Alternatively, for purposes of the present invention, hygroscopicity can be defined using the parameters of the European Pharmacopoeia Technical Guide (1999, p. 86) which has defined hygroscopicity, based on the static method, after storage at 25° C. for 24 h at 80 percent RH:

[0219] Slightly hygroscopic: Increase in mass is less than 2 percent m/m and equal to or greater than 0.2 percent m/m.

[0220] Hygroscopic: Increase in mass is less than 15 percent m/m and equal to or greater than 0.2 percent m/m.

[0221] Very Hygroscopic: Increase in mass is equal to or greater than 15 percent m/m.

[0222] Deliquescent: Sufficient water is absorbed to form a liquid.

[0223] Compositions of the present invention can be set forth as being in Class 1, Class 2, or Class 3, or as being Slightly hygroscopic, Hygroscopic, or Very Hygroscopic. Composition of the present invention can also be set forth based on their ability to reduce hygroscopicity. Thus, preferred composition of the present invention are less hygro-

scopic than the neutral free form. Further included in the present invention are composition that do not gain or lose more than 1.0% weight at 25 degrees C. when cycled between 10 and 75% RH, wherein the reference compound gains or loses more than 1.0% weight under the same conditions. Further included in the present invention are composition that do not gain or lose more than 0.5% weight at 25 degrees C. when cycled between 10 and 75% RH, wherein the reference compound gains or loses more than 0.5% or more than 1.0% weight under the same conditions. Further included in the present invention are composition that do not gain or lose more than 1.0% weight at 25 degrees C. when cycled between 5 and 95% RH, wherein the reference compound gains or loses more than 1.0% weight under the same conditions. Further included in the present invention are composition that do not gain or lose more than 0.5% weight at 25 degrees C. when cycled between 5 and 95% RH, wherein the reference compound gains or loses more than 0.5% or more than 1.0% weight under the same conditions. Further included in the present invention are composition that do not gain or lose more than 0.25% weight at 25 degrees C. when cycled between 5 and 95% RH, wherein the reference compound gains or loses more than 0.5% or more than 1.0% weight under the same conditions.

[0224] Further included in the present invention are composition that have a hygroscopicity (according to Callaghan et al.) that is at least one class lower than the reference compound or at least two classes lower than the reference compound. Included are a Class 1 composition of a Class 2 reference compound, a Class 2 composition of a Class 3 reference compound, a Class 3 composition of a Class 4 reference compound, a Class 1 composition of a Class 3 reference compound, a Class 1 composition of a Class 4 reference compound, or a Class 2 composition of a Class 4 reference compound.

[0225] Further included in the present invention are composition that have a hygroscopicity (according to the European Pharmacopoeia Technical Guide) that is at least one class lower than the reference compound or at least two classes lower than the reference compound. Non-limiting examples include; a Slightly hygroscopic composition of a Hygroscopic reference compound, a Hygroscopic composition of a Very Hygroscopic reference compound, a Very Hygroscopic composition of a Deliquescent reference compound, a Slightly hygroscopic composition of a Very Hygroscopic reference compound, a Slightly hygroscopic composition of a Deliquescent reference compound, a Hygroscopic composition of a Deliquescent reference compound.

[0226] A celecoxib salt can be characterized by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). The sodium salt of celecoxib prepared in Example 1 is characterized by at least 3 overlapping endothermic transitions between 50° C. and 110° C. (**FIG. 1**). Conditions for DSC can be found in Example 1.

[0227] Celecoxib salts can be characterized by thermogravimetric analysis (TGA). The sodium salt product prepared by Example 1 was characterized by TGA, and had about 3 loosely bound equivalents of water that evaporated between about 30° C. and about 40° C., one more tightly bound equivalent of water that evaporated between about 40° C. and about 100° C., and one very tightly bound equivalent of water that evaporated between about 140° C. and about 160° C. (**FIG. 2**). As described herein however,

the sodium salt can exist at different states of hydration depending on the humidity, temperature, and other conditions. Conditions for TGA can be found in the Example section.

[0228] Celecoxib salts of the present invention can also be characterized by powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD). The sodium salt of celecoxib prepared by Example 1 had an intense reflection or peak at a 2-theta angle of 6.40°, and other reflections or peaks at 7.01°, 16.73°, and 20.93° (**FIG. 3**). Conditions for PXRD can be found in Example 1.

[0229] Celecoxib salts may comprise solvate molecules and can occur in a variety of solvation states, also known as solvates. Thus, celecoxib salts can exist as crystalline polymorphs. Polymorphs are different crystalline forms of the same drug substance, and in the present use of the term include solvates and hydrates. For example, different polymorphs of a celecoxib salt can be obtained by varying the method of preparation (compare Examples). Crystalline polymorphs typically have different solubilities, such that a more thermodynamically stable polymorph is less soluble than a less thermodynamically stable polymorph. Pharmaceutical polymorphs can also differ in properties such as shelf-life, bioavailability, morphology, vapor pressure, density, color, and compressibility.

[0230] Suitable solvate molecules include water, alcohols, other polar organic solvents, and combinations thereof. Alcohols include methanol, ethanol, n-propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, isobutanol, propylene glycol and t-butanol. Propylene glycol solvates are particularly preferred because they are more stable and less hygroscopic than other forms. Alcohols also include polymerized alcohols such as polyalkylene glycols (e.g., polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol). In an embodiment, water is the solvent. In embodiments of the invention, a celecoxib salt contains about 0.0%, less than 0.5%, 0.5, 1, less than 1%, 1.5, less than 1.5%, 2, less than 2%, 2.5, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 5.5 or about 6 equivalents, or about 1 to about 6, 2 to about 5, 3 to about 6, 3 to about 5, 1 to about 4, 2 to about 4, 1 to about 3, 2 to about 3, 0 to about 3, 0.5 to about 3, 0 to about 2, 0.5 to about 2, 0 to about 1.5, 0.5 to about 1.5, 1 to about 1.5, or 0.5 to about 1 equivalents of water per equivalent of salt. Solvate molecules can be removed from a crystalline salt, such that the salt is either a partial or complete desolvate. If the solvate molecule is water (forming a hydrate), then a desolvated salt is said to be a dehydrate. A salt with all water removed is anhydrous. Solvate molecules can be removed from a salt by methods such as heating, treating under vacuum or reduced pressure, blowing dry air over a salt, or a combination thereof. Following desolvation, there are typically about one to about five equivalents, about one to about four equivalents, about one to about three equivalents, or about one to about two equivalents of solvent per equivalent of salt in a crystal.

[0231] Pharmaceuticals including celecoxib, can co-crystallize with one or more other substances. The term "co-crystal" as used herein means a crystalline material comprised of two or more unique solids at room temperature, each containing distinctive physical characteristics, such as structure, melting point and heats of fusion. Solvates of api compounds that do not further comprise a co-crystal forming compound are not co-crystals according to the present invention. The co-crystals may however, include one or

more solvent molecules in the crystalline lattice. That is, solvates of co-crystals, or a co-crystal further comprising a solvent or compound that is a liquid at room temperature, is included in the present invention, but crystalline material comprised of only one solid and one or more liquids (at room temperature) are not included in the present invention. The co-crystals may also be a co-crystal between a co-crystal former and a salt of an api, but the api and the co-crystal former of the present invention are constructed or bonded together through hydrogen bonds. Other modes of molecular recognition may also be present including, Π -stacking, guest-host complexation and Van-Der-Waals interactions. Of the interactions listed above, hydrogen-bonding is the dominant interaction in the formation of the co-crystal, whereby a non-covalent bond is formed between a hydrogen bond donor of one of the moieties and a hydrogen bond acceptor of the other. An alternative embodiment provides for a co-crystal wherein the co-crystal former is a second api. In another embodiment, the co-crystal former is not an api.

[0232] In embodiments of the present invention, the pharmaceutical is a co-crystal. In other embodiments the co-crystal formers are selected from one or two (for ternary co-crystals) of the following: saccharin, nicotinamide, pyridoxine (4-pyridoxic acid), acesulfame, glycine, arginine, asparagine, cysteine, glutamine, histidine, isoleucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, proline, threonine, tyrosine, valine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, tryptophan, adenine, acetohydroxamic acid, alanine, allopurinol, 4-aminobenzoic acid, cyclamic acid, 4-ethoxyphenyl urea, 4-aminopyridine, leucine, nicotinic acid, serine, tris, vitamin k5, xylitol, succinic acid, tartaric acid, pyridoxamine, ascorbic acid, hydroquinone, salicylic acid, benzoic acid, caffeine, benzenesulfonic acid, 4-chlorobenzene-sulfonic acid, citric acid, fumaric acid, gluconic acid, glutaric acid, glycolic acid, hippuric acid, maleic, malic acid, mandelic acid, malonic, 1,5-naphthalene-disulfonic acid (armstrong's acid), clemizole, imidazole, glucosamine, piperazine, procaine, or urea.

[0233] Celecoxib salts may be prepared by contacting celecoxib with a solvent. Suitable solvents include water, alcohols, other polar organic solvents, and combinations thereof. Water and isopropanol are preferred solvents. Celecoxib is reacted with a base, where suitable bases are listed above, such that celecoxib forms a salt and preferably dissolves. Bases can be added to celecoxib with the solvent (i.e., dissolved in the solvent), such that celecoxib is solvated and deprotonated essentially simultaneously, or bases can be added after the celecoxib has been contacted with solvent (e.g., see Examples). In the latter scenario, bases can either be dissolved in a solvent, which can be either the solvent already contacting celecoxib or a different solvent, can be added as a neat solid or liquid, or a combination thereof. Sodium hydroxide and sodium ethoxide are preferred bases. The amount of base required is discussed above. The solvent can be evaporated to obtain crystals of the celecoxib salt, or the celecoxib salt may precipitate and/or crystallize independent of evaporation. Crystals of a celecoxib salt can be filtered to remove bulk solvent. Methods of removing solvated solvent molecules are discussed above.

[0234] Excipients employed in pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be solids, semi-solids, liquids or combinations thereof. Preferably, excipients are

solids. Compositions of the invention containing excipients can be prepared by any known technique of pharmacy that comprises admixing an excipient with a drug or therapeutic agent. A pharmaceutical composition of the invention contains a desired amount of celecoxib per dose unit and, if intended for oral administration, can be in the form, for example, of a tablet, a caplet, a pill, a hard or soft capsule, a lozenge, a cachet, a dispensable powder, granules, a suspension, an elixir, a dispersion, a liquid, or any other form reasonably adapted for such administration. If intended for parenteral administration, it can be in the form, for example, of a suspension or transdermal patch. If intended for rectal administration, it can be in the form, for example, of a suppository. Presently preferred are oral dosage forms that are discrete dose units each containing a predetermined amount of the drug, such as tablets or capsules.

[0235] Non-limiting examples follow of excipients that can be used to prepare pharmaceutical compositions of the invention.

[0236] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention optionally comprise one or more further pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents as excipients. Suitable carriers or diluents illustratively include, but are not limited to, either individually or in combination, lactose, including anhydrous lactose and lactose monohydrate; starches, including directly compressible starch and hydrolyzed starches (e.g., CelutabTM and EmdexTM); mannitol; sorbitol; xylitol; dextrose (e.g., CereleaseTM 2000) and dextrose monohydrate; dibasic calcium phosphate dihydrate; sucrose-based diluents; confectioner's sugar; monobasic calcium sulfate monohydrate; calcium sulfate dihydrate; granular calcium lactate trihydrate; dextrates; inositol; hydrolyzed cereal solids; amylose; celluloses including microcrystalline cellulose, food grade sources of alpha- and amorphous cellulose (e.g., RexcelTM), powdered cellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC); calcium carbonate; glycine; bentonite; block co-polymers; polyvinylpyrrolidone; and the like. Such carriers or diluents, if present, constitute in total about 5% to about 99%, preferably about 10% to about 85%, and more preferably about 20% to about 80%, of the total weight of the composition. The carrier, carriers, diluent, or diluents selected preferably exhibit suitable flow properties and, where tablets are desired, compressibility.

[0237] Lactose, mannitol, dibasic sodium phosphate, and microcrystalline cellulose particularly Avicel PH microcrystalline cellulose such as Avicel PH 101), either individually or in combination, are preferred diluents. These diluents are chemically compatible with celecoxib. The use of extragranular microcrystalline cellulose (that is, microcrystalline cellulose added to a granulated composition) can be used to improve hardness (for tablets) and/or disintegration time. Lactose, especially lactose monohydrate, is particularly preferred. Lactose typically provides compositions having suitable release rates of celecoxib, stability, pre-compression flowability, and/or drying properties at a relatively low diluent cost. It provides a high density substrate that aids densification during granulation (where wet granulation is employed) and therefore improves blend flow properties and tablet properties.

[0238] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention optionally comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable disintegrants as excipients, particularly for tablet for-

mulations. Suitable disintegrants include, but are not limited to, either individually or in combination, starches, including sodium starch glycolate (e.g., ExplotabTM of PenWest) and pregelatinized corn starches (e.g., NationalTM 1551 of National Starch and Chemical Company, NationalTM 1550, and ColocornTM 1500), clays (e.g., VeegumTM HV of R. T. Vanderbilt), celluloses such as purified cellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose, croscarmellose sodium (e.g., Ac-Di-SolTM of FMC), alginates, crospovidone, and gums such as agar, guar, locust bean, karaya, pectin and tragacanth gums.

[0239] Disintegrants may be added at any suitable step during the preparation of the composition, particularly prior to granulation or during a lubrication step prior to compression. Such disintegrants, if present, constitute in total about 0.2% to about 30%, preferably about 0.2% to about 10%, and more preferably about 0.2% to about 5%, of the total weight of the composition.

[0240] Croscarmellose sodium is a preferred disintegrant for tablet or capsule disintegration, and, if present, preferably constitutes about 0.2% to about 10%, more preferably about 0.2% to about 7%, and still more preferably about 0.2% to about 5%, of the total weight of the composition. Croscarmellose sodium confers superior intragranular disintegration capabilities to granulated pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention.

[0241] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention optionally comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable binding agents or adhesives as excipients, particularly for tablet formulations. Such binding agents and adhesives preferably impart sufficient cohesion to the powder being tableted to allow for normal processing operations such as sizing, lubrication, compression and packaging, but still allow the tablet to disintegrate and the composition to be absorbed upon ingestion. Such binding agents may also further prevent or inhibit crystallization or recrystallization/precipitation of a celecoxib salt of the present invention once the salt has been dissolved in a solution. Suitable binding agents and adhesives include, but are not limited to, either individually or in combination, acacia; tragacanth; sucrose; gelatin; glucose; starches such as, but not limited to, pregelatinized starches (e.g., NationalTM 1511 and NationalTM 1500); celluloses such as, but not limited to, methylcellulose and carmellose sodium (e.g., TyloseTM); alginic acid and salts of alginic acid; magnesium aluminum silicate; PEG; guar gum; polysaccharide acids; bentonites; povidone, for example povidone K-15, K-30 and K-29/32; polymethacrylates; HPMC; hydroxypropylcellulose (e.g., KlucelTM of Aqualon); and ethylcellulose (e.g., EthocelTM of the Dow Chemical Company). Such binding agents and/or adhesives, if present, constitute in total about 0.5% to about 25%, preferably about 0.75% to about 15%, and more preferably about 1% to about 10%, of the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0242] Many of the binding agents are polymers comprising amide, ester, ether, alcohol or ketone groups and, as such, are preferably included in pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention. Polyvinylpyrrolidones such as povidone K-30 are especially preferred. Polymeric binding agents can have varying molecular weight, degrees of crosslinking, and grades of polymer. Polymeric binding

agents can also be copolymers, such as block co-polymers that contain mixtures of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide units. Variation in these units' ratios in a given polymer affects properties and performance. Examples of block copolymers with varying compositions of block units are Poloxamer 188 and Poloxamer 237 (BASF Corporation).

[0243] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention optionally comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable wetting agents as excipients. Such wetting agents are preferably selected to maintain the celecoxib in close association with water, a condition that is believed to improve bioavailability of the composition. Such wetting agents can also be useful in solubilizing or increasing the solubility of metal salts of celecoxib.

[0244] Non-limiting examples of surfactants that can be used as wetting agents (not necessarily as the recrystallization/precipitation retardant) in pharmaceutical compositions of the invention include quaternary ammonium compounds, for example benzalkonium chloride, benzethonium chloride and cetylpyridinium chloride, dioctyl sodium sulfosuccinate, polyoxyethylene alkylphenyl ethers, for example nonoxynol 9, nonoxynol 10, and octoxynol 9, poloxamers (polyoxyethylene and polyoxypropylene block copolymers), polyoxyethylene fatty acid glycerides and oils, for example polyoxyethylene (8) caprylic/capric mono- and diglycerides (e.g., Labrasol™ of Gattefosse), polyoxyethylene (35) castor oil and polyoxyethylene (40) hydrogenated castor oil; polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, for example polyoxyethylene (20) cetostearyl ether, polyoxyethylene fatty acid esters, for example polyoxyethylene (40) stearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan esters, for example polysorbate 20 and polysorbate 80 (e.g., Tween™ 80 of ICI), propylene glycol fatty acid esters, for example propylene glycol laurate (e.g., Lauroglycol™ of Gattefosse), sodium lauryl sulfate, fatty acids and salts thereof, for example oleic acid, sodium oleate and triethanolamine oleate, glyceryl fatty acid esters, for example glyceryl monostearate, sorbitan esters, for example sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monooleate, sorbitan monopalmitate and sorbitan monostearate, tyloxapol, and mixtures thereof. Such wetting agents, if present, constitute in total about 0.25% to about 15%, preferably about 0.4% to about 10%, and more preferably about 0.5% to about 5%, of the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0245] Wetting agents that are anionic surfactants are preferred. Sodium lauryl sulfate is a particularly preferred wetting agent. Sodium lauryl sulfate, if present, constitutes about 0.25% to about 7%, more preferably about 0.4% to about 4%, and still more preferably about 0.5% to about 2%, of the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0246] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention optionally comprise one or more pharmaceutically acceptable lubricants (including anti-adherents and/or glidants) as excipients. Suitable lubricants include, but are not limited to, either individually or in combination, glyceryl behenate (e.g., Compritol™ 888 of Gattefosse); stearic acid and salts thereof, including magnesium, calcium and sodium stearates; hydrogenated vegetable oils (e.g., Sterotex™ of Abitec); colloidal silica; talc; waxes; boric acid; sodium benzoate; sodium acetate; sodium fumarate; sodium chloride; DL-leucine; PEG (e.g., Carbowax™ 4000 and Carbowax™ 6000 of the Dow Chemical Company); sodium oleate; sodium lauryl sulfate; and magnesium lauryl sulfate.

Such lubricants, if present, constitute in total about 0.1% to about 10%, preferably about 0.2% to about 8%, and more preferably about 0.25% to about 5%, of the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0247] Magnesium stearate is a preferred lubricant used, for example, to reduce friction between the equipment and granulated mixture during compression of tablet formulations.

[0248] Suitable anti-adherents include, but are not limited to, talc, cornstarch, DL-leucine, sodium lauryl sulfate and metallic stearates. Talc is a preferred anti-adherent or glidant used, for example, to reduce formulation sticking to equipment surfaces and also to reduce static in the blend. Talc, if present, constitutes about 0.1% to about 10%, more preferably about 0.25% to about 5%, and still more preferably about 0.5% to about 2%, of the total weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0249] Glidants can be used to promote powder flow of a solid formulation. Suitable glidants include, but are not limited to, colloidal silicon dioxide, starch, talc, tribasic calcium phosphate, powdered cellulose and magnesium trisilicate. Colloidal silicon dioxide is particularly preferred. Other excipients such as colorants, flavors and sweeteners are known in the pharmaceutical art and can be used in pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention. Tablets can be coated, for example with an enteric coating, or uncoated. Compositions of the invention can further comprise, for example, buffering agents.

[0250] Optionally, one or more effervescent agents can be used as disintegrants and/or to enhance organoleptic properties of pharmaceutical compositions of the invention. When present in pharmaceutical compositions of the invention to promote dosage form disintegration, one or more effervescent agents are preferably present in a total amount of about 30% to about 75%, and preferably about 45% to about 70%, for example about 60%, by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0251] According to a particularly preferred embodiment of the invention, an effervescent agent, present in a solid dosage form in an amount less than that effective to promote disintegration of the dosage form, provides improved dispersion of the celecoxib in an aqueous medium. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the effervescent agent is effective to accelerate dispersion of celecoxib from the dosage form in the gastrointestinal tract, thereby further enhancing absorption and rapid onset of therapeutic effect. When present in a pharmaceutical composition of the invention to promote intragastric dispersion but not to enhance disintegration, an effervescent agent is preferably present in an amount of about 1% to about 20%, more preferably about 2.5% to about 15%, and still more preferably about 5% to about 10%, by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

[0252] An "effervescent agent" herein is an agent comprising one or more compounds which, acting together or individually, evolve a gas on contact with water. The gas evolved is generally oxygen or, most commonly, carbon dioxide. Preferred effervescent agents comprise an acid and a base that react in the presence of water to generate carbon dioxide gas. Preferably, the base comprises an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal carbonate or bicarbonate and the acid comprises an aliphatic carboxylic acid.

[0253] Non-limiting examples of suitable bases as components of effervescent agents useful in the invention include carbonate salts (e.g., calcium carbonate), bicarbonate salts (e.g., sodium bicarbonate), sesquicarbonate salts, and mixtures thereof. Calcium carbonate is a preferred base.

[0254] Non-limiting examples of suitable acids as components of effervescent agents and/or solid organic acids useful in the invention include citric acid, tartaric acid (as D-, L-, or D/L-tartaric acid), malic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, acid anhydrides of such acids, acid salts of such acids, and mixtures thereof. Citric acid is a preferred acid.

[0255] In a preferred embodiment of the invention, where the effervescent agent comprises an acid and a base, the weight ratio of the acid to the base is about 1:100 to about 100:1, more preferably about 1:50 to about 50:1, and still more preferably about 1:10 to about 10:1. In a further preferred embodiment of the invention, where the effervescent agent comprises an acid and a base, the ratio of the acid to the base is approximately stoichiometric.

[0256] Excipients which solubilize metal salts of celecoxib typically have both hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions, or are preferably amphiphilic or have amphiphilic regions. One type of amphiphilic or partially-amphiphilic excipient comprises an amphiphilic polymer or is an amphiphilic polymer. A specific amphiphilic polymer is a polyalkylene glycol, which is commonly comprised of ethylene glycol and/or propylene glycol subunits. Such polyalkylene glycols can be esterified at their termini by a carboxylic acid, ester, acid anhydride or other suitable moiety. Examples of such excipients include poloxamers (symmetric block copolymers of ethylene glycol and propylene glycol; e.g., poloxamer 237), polyalkylene glycolated esters of tocopherol (including esters formed from a di- or multi-functional carboxylic acid; e.g., d-alpha-tocopherol polyethylene glycol-1000 succinate), and macroglycerides (formed by alcoholysis of an oil and esterification of a polyalkylene glycol to produce a mixture of mono-, di- and tri-glycerides and mono- and di-esters; e.g., stearyl macrogol-32 glycerides). Such pharmaceutical compositions are advantageously administered orally.

[0257] Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can comprise about 10% to about 50%, about 25% to about 50%, about 30% to about 45%, or about 30% to about 35% by weight of a metal salt of celecoxib; about 10% to about 50%, about 25% to about 50%, about 30% to about 45%, or about 30% to about 35% by weight of an excipient which inhibits crystallization; and about 5% to about 50%, about 10% to about 40%, about 15% to about 35%, or about 30% to about 35% by weight of a binding agent. In one example, the weight ratio of the metal salt of celecoxib to the excipient which inhibits crystallization to binding agent is about 1 to 1 to 1.

[0258] Solid dosage forms of the invention can be prepared by any suitable process, not limited to processes described herein.

[0259] An illustrative process comprises (i) a step of blending a celecoxib salt of the invention with one or more excipients to form a blend, and (ii) a step of tableting or encapsulating the blend to form tablets or capsules, respectively.

[0260] In a preferred process, solid dosage forms are prepared by a process comprising (a) a step of blending the celecoxib salt to form a blend, (b) a step of granulating the blend to form a granulate, and (c) a step of tableting or encapsulating the blend to form tablets or capsules respectively. Step (b) can be accomplished by any dry or wet granulation technique known in the art. A celecoxib salt is advantageously granulated to form particles of about 1 micrometer to about 100 micrometer, about 5 micrometer to about 50 micrometer, or about 10 micrometer to about 25 micrometer. One or more diluents, one or more disintegrants and one or more binding agents may be added, for example in the blending step, a wetting agent can optionally be added, for example in the granulating step, and one or more disintegrants may be added after granulating but before tableting or encapsulating. A lubricant may be added before tableting. Blending and granulating can be performed independently under low or high shear. A process is preferably selected that forms a granulate that is uniform in drug content, that readily disintegrates, that flows with sufficient ease so that weight variation can be reliably controlled during capsule filling or tableting, and that is dense enough in bulk so that a batch can be processed in the selected equipment and individual doses fit into the specified capsules or tablet dies.

[0261] In an alternative embodiment, solid dosage forms are prepared by a process that includes a spray drying step, wherein a celecoxib salt is suspended with one or more excipients in one or more sprayable liquids, preferably a non-protic (e.g., non-aqueous or non-alcoholic) sprayable liquid, and then is rapidly spray dried over a current of warm air.

[0262] A granulate or spray dried powder resulting from any of the above illustrative processes can be compressed or molded to prepare tablets or encapsulated to prepare capsules. Conventional tableting and encapsulation techniques known in the art can be employed. Where coated tablets are desired, conventional coating techniques are suitable.

[0263] Excipients for tablet compositions of the invention are preferably selected to provide a disintegration time of less than about 30 minutes, preferably about 25 minutes or less, more preferably about 20 minutes or less, and still more preferably about 15 minutes or less, in a standard disintegration assay.

[0264] Celecoxib dosage forms of the invention preferably comprise celecoxib in a daily dosage amount of about 10 mg to about 1000 mg, more preferably about 50 mg to about 100 mg, about 100 mg to about 150 mg, 150 mg to about 200 mg, 200 mg to about 250 mg, 250 mg to about 300 mg, 300 mg to about 350 mg, 350 mg to about 400 mg, 400 mg to about 450 mg, 450 mg to about 500 mg, 500 mg to about 550 mg, 550 mg to about 600 mg, 600 to about 700, and 700 to about 800 mg.

[0265] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention comprise one or more orally deliverable dose units. Each dose unit comprises celecoxib in a therapeutically effective amount that is preferably those listed. The term "dose unit" herein means a portion of a pharmaceutical composition that contains an amount of a therapeutic or prophylactic agent, in the present case celecoxib, suitable for a single oral administration to provide a therapeutic effect. Typically one dose unit, or a small plurality (up to about 4) of dose units, in a

single administration provides a dose comprising a sufficient amount of the agent to result in the desired effect. Administration of such doses can be repeated as required, typically at a dosage frequency of 1, 2, 3 or 4 times per day.

[0266] It will be understood that a therapeutically effective amount of celecoxib for a subject is dependent inter alia on the body weight of the subject. A "subject" to which a celecoxib salt or a pharmaceutical composition thereof can be administered includes a human subject of either sex and of any age, and also includes any nonhuman animal, particularly a warm-blooded animal, more particularly a domestic or companion animal, illustratively a cat, dog or horse. When the subject is a child or a small animal (e.g., a dog), for example, an amount of celecoxib (measured as the neutral form of celecoxib, that is, not including counterions in a salt or water in a hydrate) relatively low in the preferred range of about 10 mg to about 1000 mg is likely to provide blood serum concentrations consistent with therapeutic effectiveness. Where the subject is an adult human or a large animal (e.g., a horse), achievement of such blood serum concentrations of celecoxib is likely to require dose units containing a relatively greater amount of celecoxib.

[0267] Typical dose units in a pharmaceutical composition of the invention contain about 10, 20, 25, 37.5, 50, 75, 100, 125, 150, 175, 200, 250, 300, 350 or 400 mg of celecoxib. For an adult human, a therapeutically effective amount of celecoxib per dose unit in a composition of the present invention is typically about 50 mg to about 400 mg. Especially preferred amounts of celecoxib per dose unit are about 100 mg to about 200 mg, for example about 100 mg or about 200 mg. Other doses that are not in current use for CELEBREX™ may become preferred, if the bioavailability is changed with a novel formulation. For instance, 300 mg may become a preferred dose for certain indications.

[0268] A dose unit containing a particular amount of celecoxib can be selected to accommodate any desired frequency of administration used to achieve a desired daily dosage. The daily dosage and frequency of administration, and therefore the selection of appropriate dose unit, depends on a variety of factors, including the age, weight, sex and medical condition of the subject, and the nature and severity of the condition or disorder, and thus may vary widely.

[0269] For pain management, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be used to provide a daily dosage of celecoxib of about 50 mg to about 1000 mg, preferably about 100 mg to about 600 mg, more preferably about 150 mg to about 500 mg, and still more preferably about 175 mg to about 400 mg, for example about 200 mg. A daily dose of celecoxib of about 0.7 to about 13 mg/kg body weight, preferably about 1.3 to about 8 mg/kg body weight, more preferably about 2 to about 6.7 mg/kg body weight, and still more preferably about 2.3 to about 5.3 mg/kg body weight, for example about 2.7 mg/kg body weight, is generally appropriate when administered in a pharmaceutical composition of the invention. The daily dose can be administered in one to about four doses per day. Administration at a rate of one 50 mg dose unit four times a day, one 100 mg dose unit or two 50 mg dose units twice a day or one 200 mg dose unit, two 100 mg dose units or four 50 mg. dose units once a day is preferred.

[0270] The term "oral administration" herein includes any form of delivery of a therapeutic agent or a composition

thereof to a subject wherein the agent or composition is placed in the mouth of the subject, whether or not the agent or composition is immediately swallowed, although each are embodiments of the invention. Thus, "oral administration" includes buccal and sublingual as well as esophageal administration. Absorption of the agent can occur in any part or parts of the gastrointestinal tract including the mouth, esophagus, stomach, duodenum, ileum and colon. The term "orally deliverable" herein means suitable for oral administration.

[0271] Pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are useful in treatment and prevention of a very wide range of disorders mediated by COX-2, including but not restricted to disorders characterized by inflammation, pain and/or fever. Such pharmaceutical compositions are especially useful as anti-inflammatory agents, such as in treatment of arthritis, with the additional benefit of having significantly less harmful side effects than compositions of conventional non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that lack selectivity for COX-2 over COX-1. In particular, pharmaceutical compositions of the invention have reduced potential for gastrointestinal toxicity and gastrointestinal irritation including upper gastrointestinal ulceration and bleeding, reduced potential for renal side effects such as reduction in renal function leading to fluid retention and exacerbation of hypertension, reduced effect on bleeding times including inhibition of platelet function, and possibly a lessened ability to induce asthma attacks in aspirin-sensitive asthmatic subjects, by comparison with compositions of conventional NSAIDs. Thus compositions of the invention are particularly useful as an alternative to conventional NSAIDs where such NSAIDs are contraindicated, for example in subjects with peptic ulcers, gastritis, regional enteritis, ulcerative colitis, diverticulitis or with a recurrent history of gastrointestinal lesions; gastrointestinal bleeding, coagulation disorders including anemia such as hypoprothrombinemia, hemophilia or other bleeding problems; kidney disease; or in subjects prior to surgery or subjects taking anticoagulants.

[0272] Contemplated pharmaceutical compositions are useful to treat a variety of arthritic disorders, including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthropathies, gouty arthritis, osteoarthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus and juvenile arthritis.

[0273] Such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treatment of asthma, bronchitis, menstrual cramps, preterm labor, tendonitis, bursitis, allergic neuritis, cytomegalovirus infectivity, apoptosis including HIV-induced apoptosis, lumbago, liver disease including hepatitis, skin-related conditions such as psoriasis, eczema, acne, burns, dermatitis and ultraviolet radiation damage including sunburn, and post-operative inflammation including that following ophthalmic surgery such as cataract surgery or refractive surgery.

[0274] Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are useful to treat gastrointestinal conditions such as, but not limited to, inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, irritable bowel syndrome and ulcerative colitis.

[0275] Such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treating inflammation in such diseases as migraine headaches, periarteritis nodosa, thyroiditis, aplastic anemia, Hodgkin's disease, scleroderma, rheumatic fever, type I

diabetes, neuromuscular junction disease including myasthenia gravis, white matter disease including multiple sclerosis, sarcoidosis, nephrotic syndrome, Behcet's syndrome, polymyositis, gingivitis, nephritis, hypersensitivity, swelling occurring after injury including brain edema, myocardial ischemia, and the like.

[0276] In addition, these pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treatment of ophthalmic diseases, such as retinitis, conjunctivitis, retinopathies, uveitis, ocular photophobia, and of acute injury to the eye tissue.

[0277] Also, such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treatment of pulmonary inflammation, such as that associated with viral infections and cystic fibrosis, and in bone resorption such as that associated with osteoporosis.

[0278] The pharmaceutical compositions are useful for treatment of certain central nervous system disorders, such as cortical dementias including Alzheimer's disease, neurodegeneration, and central nervous system damage resulting from stroke, ischemia and trauma. The term "treatment" in the present context includes partial or total inhibition of dementias, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, multi-infarct dementia, pre-senile dementia, alcoholic dementia and senile dementia.

[0279] Such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treatment of allergic rhinitis, respiratory distress syndrome, endotoxin shock syndrome and liver disease.

[0280] Further, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are useful in treatment of pain, including but not limited to postoperative pain, dental pain, muscular pain, and pain resulting from cancer. For example, such compositions are useful for relief of pain, fever and inflammation in a variety of conditions including rheumatic fever, influenza and other viral infections including common cold, low back and neck pain, dysmenorrhea, headache, toothache, sprains and strains, myositis, neuralgia, synovitis, arthritis, including rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative joint diseases (osteoarthritis), gout and ankylosing spondylitis, bursitis, burns, and trauma following surgical and dental procedures.

[0281] The present invention is further directed to a therapeutic method of treating a condition or disorder where treatment with a COX-2 inhibitory drug is indicated, the method comprising oral administration of a pharmaceutical composition of the invention to a subject in need thereof. The dosage regimen to prevent, give relief from, or ameliorate the condition or disorder preferably corresponds to once-a-day or twice-a-day treatment, but can be modified in accordance with a variety of factors. These include the type, age, weight, sex, diet and medical condition of the subject and the nature and severity of the disorder. Thus, the dosage regimen actually employed can vary widely and can therefore deviate from the preferred dosage regimens set forth above. The present pharmaceutical compositions can be used in combination with other therapies or therapeutic agents, including but not limited to, therapies with opioids and other analgesics, including narcotic analgesics, Mu receptor antagonists, Kappa receptor antagonists, non-narcotic (i.e. non-addictive) analgesics, monoamine uptake inhibitors, adenosine regulating agents, cannabinoid derivatives, GABA active agents, norexin neuropeptide modulators, Substance P antagonists, neurokinin-1 receptor antago-

nists and sodium channel blockers, among others. Preferred combination therapies comprise use of a composition of the invention with one or more compounds selected from aceclofenac, acemetacin, e-acetamidocaproic acid, acetaminophen, acetaminosalol, acetanilide, acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin), S-adenosylmethionine, alclofenac, alfentanil, allylprodine, alminoprofen, aloxiprin, alphaprodine, aluminum bis(acetylsalicylate), amfenac, aminochlorthenoxazin, 3-amino-4-hydroxybutyric acid, 2-amino-4-picoline, aminopropylon, aminopyrine, amixetrine, ammonium salicylate, ampiroxicam, amtolmetin guacil, anileridine, antipyrine, antipyrine salicylate, antrafenine, apazone, bendazac, benorlylate, benoxaprofen, benzpiperylon, benzydamine, benzylmorphine, bermoprofen, bezitramide, alpha-bisabolol, bromfenac, p-bromoacetanilide, 5-bromosalicylic acid acetate, bromosaligenin, buccetin, bucloxic acid, bucolome, buprenorphine, buprenorphine, butacetin, butibufen, butophanol, calcium acetylsalicylate, carbamazepine, carbinophene, carprofen, carsalam, chlorobutanol, chlorlothenoxazin, choline salicylate, cinchophen, cinmetacin, ciramadol, clid-anac, clometacin, clonitazene, clonixin, clopirac, clove, codeine, codeine methyl bromide, codeine phosphate, codeine sulfate, cropropamide, crotethamide, desomorphine, dexoxadrol, dextromoramide, dezocine, diampro-mide, diclofenac sodium, difenamil, difenpiramide, diflunisal, dihydrocodeine, dihydrocodeinone enol acetate, dihydromorphine, dihydroxyaluminum acetylsalicylate, dimenoxadol, dimepheptanol, dimethylthiambutene, dioxaphetyl butyrate, dipipanone, diprocetyl, dipyrone, ditazol, droxicam, emorazone, enfenamic acid, epirizole, eptazocine, etersalate, ethenzamide, ethoheptazine, ethoxazene, ethylmethylthiambutene, ethylmorphine, etodolac, etofenaminate, etonitazene, eugenol, felbinac, fenbufen, fenclozic acid, fendosal, fenoprofen, fentanyl, fentiazac, fepradinol, feprazone, floctafenine, flufenamic acid, flunoxaprofen, fluoresone, flupirtine, fluproquazone, flurbiprofen, fosfosal, gentisic acid, glafenine, glucametacin, glycol salicylate, guaiazulene, hydrocodone, hydromorphine, hydroxypethidine, ibufenac, ibuprofen, ibuprofen, imidazole salicylate, indomethacin, indoprofen, isofezolac, isoladol, isomethadone, isonixin, isoxepac, isoxicam, ketobemidone, ketoprofen, ketorolac, p-lactophenetide, lefetamine, levorphanol, lofentanil, lonazolac, lomoxicam, loxoprofen, lysine acetylsalicylate, magnesium acetylsalicylate, meclofenamic acid, mefenamic acid, meperidine, meptazinol, mesalamine, metazocine, methadone hydrochloride, methotrimeprazine, metiazinic acid, metofoline, metopon, modafinil, mofebutazone, mofezolac, morazone, morphine, morphine hydrochloride, morphine sulfate, morpholine salicylate, myrophine, nabumetone, nalbuphine, 1-naphthyl salicylate, naproxen, narceine, nefopam, nicomorphine, nifenazone, niflumic acid, nimesulide, 5'-nitro-2'-propoxyacetanilide, norlevorphanol, normethadone, normorphine, norpipanone, olsalazine, opium, oxaceprol, oxametacine, oxapropin, oxycodone, oxymorphone, oxyphenbutazone, papaveretum, paranyline, parsahndide, pentazocine, perisoxal, phenacetin, phenadoxone, phenazocine, phenazopyridine hydrochloride, phenocoll, phenoperidine, phenopyrazone, phenyl acetylsalicylate, phenylbutazone, phenyl salicylate, phenylamidol, piktetoprofen, piminodine, pipebuzone, piperylone, pirofen, piritazocine, piritramide, piroxicam, pranoprofen, proglumetacine, proheptazine, promedol, propacetamol, propiram, propoxyphene, propyphenazone, proquazone, protizinic acid, ramifenazone, remifentanil, rimazolium metilsulfate, salac-

etamide, salicin, salicylamide, salicylamide o-acetic acid, salicysulfuric acid, salsalte, salverine, simetride, sodium salicylate, sufentanil, sulfasalazine, sulindac, superoxide dismutase, suprofen, suxibuzone, talniflumate, tenidap, tenoxicam, terofenamate, tetrandrine, thiazolinobutazone, tiaprofenic acid, tiaramide, tilidine, tinoridine, tolfenamic acid, tolmetin, topiramate, tramadol, tropesin, viminol, xenbucin, ximoprofen, zaltoprofen and zomepirac (see The Merck Index, 12th Edition, Therapeutic Category and Biological Activity Index, ed. S. Budavari (1996), pp. Ther-2 to Ther-3 and Ther-12 (Analgesic (D)ental), Analgesic (Narcotic), Analgesic (Non-narcotic), Anti-inflammatory (Non-steroidal)).

[0282] Pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are useful for treating and preventing inflammation-related cardiovascular disorders, including vascular diseases, coronary artery disease, aneurysm, vascular rejection, arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis including cardiac transplant atherosclerosis, myocardial infarction, embolism, stroke, thrombosis including venous thrombosis, angina including unstable angina, coronary plaque inflammation, bacterial-induced inflammation including Chlamydia-induced inflammation, viral induced inflammation, and inflammation associated with surgical procedures such as vascular grafting including coronary artery bypass surgery, revascularization procedures including angioplasty, stent placement, endarterectomy, or other invasive procedures involving arteries, veins and capillaries.

[0283] These pharmaceutical compositions are also useful in treatment of angiogenesis-related disorders in a subject, for example to inhibit tumor angiogenesis. Such pharmaceutical compositions are useful in treatment of neoplasia, including metastasis; ophthalmological conditions such as corneal graft rejection, ocular neovascularization, retinal neovascularization including neovascularization following injury or infection, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, retrolental fibroplasia and neovascular glaucoma; ulcerative diseases such as gastric ulcer; pathological, but non-malignant, conditions such as hemangiomas, including infantile hemangiomas, angiofibroma of the nasopharynx and avascular necrosis of bone; and disorders of the female reproductive system such as endometriosis.

[0284] Moreover, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention are useful in prevention and treatment of benign and malignant tumors and neoplasia including cancer, such as colorectal cancer, brain cancer, bone cancer, epithelial cell-derived neoplasia (epithelial carcinoma) such as basal cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, gastrointestinal cancer such as lip cancer, mouth cancer, esophageal cancer, small bowel cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, liver cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer, skin cancer such as squamous cell and basal cell cancers, prostate cancer, renal cell carcinoma, and other known cancers that effect epithelial cells throughout the body. Neoplasias for which compositions of the invention are contemplated to be particularly useful are gastrointestinal cancer, Barrett's esophagus, liver cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, cervical cancer, lung cancer, breast cancer and skin cancer. Such pharmaceutical compositions can also be used to treat fibrosis that occurs with radiation therapy. These pharmaceutical compositions can be used to treat subjects having adenomatous polyps, including those

with familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). Additionally, pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention can be used to prevent polyps from forming in subjects at risk of FAP.

[0285] Also, the pharmaceutical compositions inhibit prostanoid-induced smooth muscle contraction by inhibiting synthesis of contractile prostanoids and hence can be of use in treatment of dysmenorrhea, premature labor, asthma and eosinophil-related disorders. They also can be of use for decreasing bone loss particularly in postmenopausal women (i.e., treatment of osteoporosis), and for treatment of glaucoma.

[0286] Preferred uses for pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, for pain management generally (particularly post-oral surgery pain, post-general surgery pain, post-orthopedic surgery pain, and acute flares of osteoarthritis), for treatment of Alzheimer's disease, and for colon cancer chemoprevention. A particular preferred use is for rapid pain management, such as when a celecoxib salt or a pharmaceutical composition thereof is effective in treating pain within about 30 minutes or less.

[0287] Besides being useful for human treatment, pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are useful for veterinary treatment of companion animals, exotic animals, farm animals, and the like, particularly mammals. More particularly, pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are useful for treatment of COX-2 mediated disorders in horses, dogs and cats.

EXEMPLIFICATION

[0288] Below are standard procedures for acquiring Raman, XRD, DSC and TGA data herein. These procedures will be followed for each respective method of analysis herein unless otherwise indicated.

[0289] Procedure for Raman Acquisition, Filtering and Binning

[0290] Acquisition

[0291] The sample was either left in the glass vial in which it was processed or an aliquot of the sample was transferred to a glass slide. The glass vial or slide was positioned in the sample chamber. The measurement was made using an Almega™ Dispersive Raman (Almega™ Dispersive Raman, Thermo-Nicolet, 5225 Verona Road, Madison, Wis. 53711-4495) system fitted with a 785 nm laser source. The sample was manually brought into focus using the microscope portion of the apparatus with a 10× power objective (unless otherwise noted), thus directing the laser onto the surface of the sample. The spectrum was acquired using the parameters outlined in Table 1. (Exposure times and number of exposures may vary; changes to parameters will be indicated for each acquisition.)

[0292] Filtering and Binning

[0293] Each spectrum in a set was filtered using a matched filter of feature size 25 to remove background signals, including glass contributions and sample fluorescence. This is particularly important as large background signal or fluorescence limit the ability to accurately pick and assign peak positions in the subsequent steps of the binning process. Filtered spectra were binned using the peak pick and

bin algorithm with the parameters given in Table 2. The sorted cluster diagrams for each sample set and the corresponding cluster assignments for each spectral file were used to identify groups of samples with similar spectra, which was used to identify samples for secondary analyses.

TABLE 1

<u>Raman Spectral acquisition parameters</u>	
Parameter	Setting Used
Exposure time (s)	2.0
Number of exposures	10
Laser source wavelength (nm)	785
Laser power (%)	100
Aperture shape	pin hole
Aperture size (um)	100
Spectral range	104–3428
Grating position	Single
Temperature at acquisition (° C.)	24.0

[0294]

TABLE 2

<u>Raman Filtering and Binning Parameters</u>	
Parameter	Setting Used
<u>Filtering Parameters</u>	
Filter type	Matched
Filter size	25
<u>QC Parameters</u>	
Peak Height Threshold	1000
Region for noise test (cm ⁻¹)	0–10000
RMS noise threshold	10000
Automatically eliminate failed spectra	Yes
<u>Region of Interest</u>	
Include (cm ⁻¹)	104–3428
Exclude region I (cm ⁻¹)	
Exclude region II (cm ⁻¹)	
Exclude region III (cm ⁻¹)	
Exclude region IV (cm ⁻¹)	
<u>Peak Pick Parameters</u>	
Peak Pick Sensitivity	Variable
Peak Pick Threshold	100
Peak Comparison Parameters	
Peak Window (cm ⁻¹)	2
<u>Analysis Parameters</u>	
Number of clusters	Variable

[0295] Procedure for X-Ray Powder Diffraction

[0296] All x-ray powder diffraction patterns were obtained using the D/Max Rapid X-ray Diffractometer (D/Max Rapid, Contact Rigaku/MSC, 9009 New Trails Drive, The Woodlands, Tex., USA 77381-5209) equipped with a copper source (Cu/K α 1.5406), manual x-y stage, and 0.3 mm collimator. The sample was loaded into a 0.3 mm boron rich glass capillary tube (e.g., Charles Supper Company, 15 Tech Circle, Natick Mass. 01760-1024) by sectioning off one end

of the tube and tapping the open, sectioned end into a bed of the powdered sample or into the sediment of a slurried precipitate. Note, precipitate can be amorphous or crystalline. The loaded capillary was mounted in a holder that was secured into the x-y stage. A diffractogram was acquired (e.g., Control software: RINT Rapid Control Software, Rigaku Rapid/XRD, version 1.0.0, © 1999 Rigaku Co.) under ambient conditions at a power setting of 46 kV at 40 mA in reflection mode, while oscillating about the omega-axis from 0-5 degrees at 1 degree/s and spinning about the phi-axis at 2 degrees/s. The exposure time was 15 minutes unless otherwise specified. The diffractogram obtained was integrated over 2-theta from 2-60 degrees and chi (1 segment) from 0-360 degrees at a step size of 0.02 degrees using the cylint utility in the RINT Rapid display software (Analysis software: RINT Rapid display software, version 1.18, Rigaku/MSC.) provided by Rigaku with the instrument. The dark counts value was set to 8 as per the system calibration (System set-up and calibration by Rigaku); normalization was set to average; the omega offset was set to 180°; and no chi or phi offsets were used for the integration. The analysis software JADE XRD Pattern Processing, versions 5.0 and 6.0 ((⁸1995-2002, Materials Data, Inc. was also used.

[0297] The relative intensity of peaks in a diffractogram is not necessarily a limitation of the PXRD pattern because peak intensity can vary from sample to sample, e.g., due to crystalline impurities. Further, the angles of each peak can vary by about +/-0.1 degrees, preferably +/-0.05. The entire pattern or most of the pattern peaks may also shift by about +/-0.1 degree due to differences in calibration, settings, and other variations from instrument to instrument and operator to operator.

[0298] Procedure for Differential Thermal Analysis (DSC)

[0299] An aliquot of the sample was weighed into an aluminum sample pan. (e.g., Pan part #900786.091; lid part #900779.901; TA Instruments, 109 Lukens Drive, New Castle, Del. 19720) The sample pan was sealed either by crimping for dry samples or press fitting for wet samples (e.g., hydrated or solvated samples). The sample pan was loaded in to the apparatus (DSC: Q1000 Differential Scanning Calorimeter, TA Instruments, 109 Lukens Drive, New Castle, Del. 19720), which is equipped with an autosampler, and a thermogram was obtained by individually heating the sample (e.g., Control software: Advantage for QW-Series, version 1.0.0.78, Thermal Advantage Release 2.0, © 2001 TA instruments—Water LLC) at a rate of 10° C./min from T_{min} (typically 20° C.) to T_{max} (typically 300° C.) (Heating rate and temperature range may vary, changes to these parameters will be indicated for each sample) using an empty aluminum pan as a reference. Dry nitrogen (e.g., Compressed nitrogen, grade 4.8, BOC Gases, 575 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, N.J. 07974-2082) was used as a sample purge gas and was set at a flow rate of 50 ml/min. Thermal transitions were viewed and analyzed using the analysis software (Analysis Software: Universal Analysis 2000 for Windows 95/95/2000/NT, version 3.1E; Build 3.1.0.40, © 1991-2001TA instruments—Water LLC) provided with the instrument. Procedure for Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA)

[0300] An aliquot of the sample was transferred into a platinum sample pan. (Pan part #952019.906; TA Instruments, 109 Lukens Drive, New Castle, Del. 19720) The pan

was placed on the loading platform and was then automatically loaded in to the apparatus (TGA: Q500 Thermogravimetric Analyzer, TA Instruments, 109 Lukens Drive, New Castle, Del. 19720) using the control software (Control software: Advantage for QW-Series, version 1.0.0.78, Thermal Advantage Release 2.0, © 2001 TA instruments—Water LLC). Thermograms were obtained by individually heating the sample at 10° C./min from 25° C. to 300° C. (Heating rate and temperature range may vary, changes in parameters will be indicated for each sample) under flowing dry nitrogen (e.g., Compressed nitrogen, grade 4.8, BOC Gases, 575 Mountain Avenue, Murray Hill, N.J. 07974-2082), with a sample purge flow rate of 60 ml/min and a balance purge flow rate of 40 ml/min. Thermal transitions (e.g. weight changes) were viewed and analyzed using the analysis software (Analysis Software: Universal Analysis 2000 for Windows 95/95/2000/NT, version 3.1E; Build 3.1.0.40, © 1991-2001TA instruments—Water LLC) provided with the instrument.

EXAMPLE 1

[0301] Celecoxib Sodium Salt from Aqueous Solution

[0302] To 77.3 mg of commercially-available celecoxib was added 1.0 mL distilled water, followed by 0.220 mL of 1 M NaOH (VWR). The mixture was heated with stirring to 60° C., whereupon an additional 1.0 mL distilled water was added. Solid NaOH (22 mg) was added, and the solid NaOH and celecoxib dissolved. The mixture was heated again at 60° C. to evaporate water. About 15 mL reagent-grade ethanol was added, while the mixture was stirred and heated at 60° C. with air blowing over the solution. Heating continued until the solution was dry. The resulting material was analyzed by powder x-ray diffraction (PXRD), differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), and thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), the results of which are seen in FIGS. 1-3. The product was found to contain about 4.1 equivalents of water per equivalent of salt, although most of all of the water could be contained in the NaOH that co-precipitated with the salt.

[0303] For the DSC analysis, the purge gas used was dry nitrogen, the reference material was an empty aluminum pan that was crimped, and the sample purge was 50 mL/minute. DSC analysis of the sample was performed by placing 2.594 mg of sample in an aluminum pan with a crimped pan closure. The starting temperature was 20° C. with a heating rate of 10° C./minute, and the ending temperature was 200° C. The resulting DSC analysis is shown in FIG. 1. The transitions observed include a melt/dehydration process between about 40 and about 70 C, another transition between about 70 and about 100 C possibly resulting from a recrystallization/precipitation event and a second melt/dehydration transition between about 100 and about 110 C.

[0304] For all of the TGA experiments, the purge gas used was dry nitrogen, the balance purge was 40 mL/minute N₂, and the sample purge was 60 mL/minute N₂. TGA of the sample was performed by placing 2.460 mg of sample in a platinum pan. The starting temperature was 20° C. with a heating rate of 10° C./minute, and the ending temperature was 300° C. The resulting TGA analysis is shown in FIG. 2. The TGA shows a mass loss of about 12.5% between about 30 and about 50° C., attributed to the loss of about 2.8 water molecules. A second mass loss of about 2.0% between

about 71 and 85° C., attributed to the loss of about 0.5 water molecules. Finally, a mass loss of about 4.0% between about 148 and 170° C. attributed to either the loss of about 1 water molecule or some decomposition of the drug compound. The hydration state of the salt can vary depending on the humidity, temperature and other conditions.

[0305] The PXRD pattern for the compound prepared above is shown in FIG. 3. In the diffractogram of FIG. 3, the background has been removed. The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks that can be used to characterize the salt comprising any one, or any combination of any two, any three or any four peaks or any other combination of peaks at a 2-theta angle of FIG. 3 including for example, the peaks at 6.40°, 7.01°, 16.73°, and 20.93°.

EXAMPLE 2

[0306] Celecoxib Sodium Salt from 2-propanol Solution

[0307] To 126.3 mg of celecoxib (Fako Hazlari) was added a 1.0 mL aliquot of isopropanol, and the mixture was heated to dissolve the celecoxib. Sodium ethoxide was added as a solution 21% in ethanol (0.124 mL solution, 3.31×10^{-4} mol sodium ethoxide). An additional 1.0 mL of isopropanol was added. The mixture was stirred to obtain a slurry of white crystalline solids that appeared as fine birefringent needles by polarized light microscopy.

[0308] The slurry was filtered by suction filtration and rinsed with 2 mL of isopropanol. The solid was allowed to air dry before being gently ground to a powder. The product was analyzed by PXRD, DSC, and TGA as in Example 1, but a 0.5 mm capillary was used to hold the sample in the PXRD experiment. The compound lost 17.35% weight between room temperature and 120° C. The DSC trace shows a broad endothermic region, which is consistent with a loss of volatile components with increasing temperature. The endotherm peaks at 66° C. The PXRD pattern peaks that can be used to characterize the salt include any one or combination comprising any two, any three, any four, any five, any six, any seven, any eight, any nine, any ten, any eleven, any twelve, or all thirteen 2-theta angles of 4.09°, 4.99°, 6.51°, 7.07°, 9.99°, 11.59°, 16.53°, 17.69°, 18.47°, 19.13°, 20.11°, 20.95°, 22.67°, or any one or combination of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 peaks of FIG. 62.

EXAMPLE 3

[0309] Celecoxib Sodium Salt from Aqueous Solution

[0310] Synthesis 1: To a vial was added 29.64 mg celecoxib and 3.00 mL of 1 N sodium hydroxide. The celecoxib dissolved immediately. After a time, the celecoxib precipitated from solution.

[0311] Synthesis 2: To a vial was added 7.10 mg celecoxib and 3.00 mL of 1 N sodium hydroxide. The celecoxib dissolved. Overnight, the celecoxib precipitated and formed white, needle-like crystals.

[0312] Synthesis 3: To a vial was added 17.6 mg celecoxib and 10 mL of 1 N sodium hydroxide. The celecoxib dissolved. The vial was placed in a beaker wrapped in aluminum foil and filled with a large tissue for insulation. The beaker was left and crystals formed within about 12-36 hours.

[0313] Analysis: The product solids from syntheses 1 and 2 were combined and analyzed by PXRD, DSC, and TGA as in example 1, but a 0.5 mm capillary was used to hold the sample in the PXRD experiment. The product salt was found to contain about 4 equivalents of water per equivalent of salt, although as stated herein the hydration state of the salt can vary depending on humidity, temperature, and other conditions. TGA showed a weight loss of 14.9% as the temperature was increased from room temperature to 100° C. at 10° C./min. DSC analysis showed a large endothermic transition at 74+/-1.0° C. and a second broad and noisy endothermic transition at about 130+/-5.0° C. The PXRD pattern has peaks that can be used to characterize the salt include any one or combination comprising any two, any three, any four, any five, or all six 2-theta angle peaks of 3.6°, 8.9°, 9.6°, 10.8°, 11.4°, and 20.0°.

EXAMPLE 4

[0314] Pharmacokinetic Studies in Rats

[0315] The sodium salt form (from Example 6) was compared with CELEBREX powder in terms of absorption in rats (FIGS. 4A and 4B).

[0316] Pharmacokinetics in male Sprague-Dawley rats after 5 mg/kg oral doses of the celecoxib crystal form used in the marketed formulations and the sodium salt form are shown in FIGS. 4A and 4B. Solids were placed in size 9 gelatin capsules (Torpac) and dosed via gavage needle, followed by oral gavage of 1 mL water. CELEBREX® granulation was transferred from commercial 200 mg capsules. The sodium salt was blended with Povidone K30 (4:1 weight ratio to the sodium salt of celecoxib). The plots are averages of plasma levels at each of the time points from plasma of 5 rats.

[0317] The pharmacokinetics at 5 mg/kg doses of celecoxib or the celecoxib sodium salt demonstrate a faster peak level of the drug in plasma. Early timepoints show higher levels of celecoxib in plasma from the sodium salt relative to CELEBREX® (in particular, see FIG. 4A).

EXAMPLE 5

[0318] Solubility of Celecoxib Sodium in the Presence of Polyvinylpyrrolidone

[0319] Water was added to a 1:4 mixture of celecoxib sodium and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP) to obtain a clear solution. The solution was stable for at least 15 minutes, after which time crystals of neutral celecoxib began to form.

[0320] Crystalline neutral celecoxib did not dissolve when added to aqueous polyvinylpyrrolidone or when water was added to a dry blend of neutral crystalline celecoxib and polyvinylpyrrolidone.

EXAMPLE 6

[0321] Preparation of Celecoxib Sodium

[0322] The free acid of Celecoxib (5.027 g) was suspended in an aqueous solution of NaOH (13.181 mL, 1 M). The suspension was gently heated at 60° C. for 1 minute to dissolve the remaining solid. The mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature, which yielded no precipitation.

Further cooling in an ice bath for 1 hour gives precipitation of the product. The resulting solution was filtered and allowed to air dry.

[0323] Characterization of the product has been achieved via TGA, DSC, PXRD, Raman spectroscopy, microscopy, and ¹H NMR spectroscopy. NMR acquisitions were performed on a Varian 300 MHz Spectrometer in (methyl sulfoxide)-d⁶.

[0324] The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks as shown in FIG. 13A. An intense peak can be seen at 19.85 with other peaks at 2-theta angles including but not limited to, 3.57, 10.69, 13.69, 20.43, 21.53 and 22.39. The crystal can be characterized by any one, any two, any three, any four, any five or all six of the peaks above, or any one or combination of any number 2-theta angles of FIG. 13A.

[0325] Results of Raman spectroscopy can be seen in FIG. 13B. Raman shift (cm⁻¹) peaks occur at positions including, but not limited to, any one, any two, any three, any four, all five of 1617.11, 1446.20, 1373.73, 975.02 and 800.15, or any combinations 2, 3, 4, 5 or more peaks of FIG. 13B.

EXAMPLE 7

[0326] Administration of Celecoxib Compositions to Dogs

[0327] The celecoxib salt of Example 6 was administered to dogs and compared to administration of commercially available celecoxib. Six male beagle dogs aged 2-4 years old and weighing 8-12 kg were food-deprived but were given water. Each of the dogs was administered 3 test doses as described below and allowed a one week washout period between doses. The test doses were: (1) commercially available celecoxib in the form of CELEBREX® at 1 milligrams per kilograms (mpk) combined with 70/30 PEG400/water which was administered IV, (2) oral dose of commercially available celecoxib in the form of CELEBREX® at 5 mpk adjusted for each dog's weight in size 4 gelatin capsules, and (3) oral dose of the sodium salt of the instant invention as prepared according to Example 6 at 5 mpk adjusted for each dog's weight in size 4 gelatin capsules. Blood samples of approximately 2 ml in sodium heparin were obtained by jugular venipuncture at 0.25, 0.5, 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, and 24 hours post-dose. Additional samples were obtained predose and at 0.08 hr for the IV study. Blood samples were immediately placed on ice and centrifuged within 30 min of collection at 3200 g at 4 degrees C. nominal for 10 minutes. Plasma samples (~1.0 ml) were harvested and stored in 4 aliquots of 0.25 ml at -20 degrees C. Plasma samples were analyzed for celecoxib using a LC-MS/MS assay with a lower limit of quantitation of 5 ng/ml. Pharmacokinetic profiles of celecoxib in plasma were analyzed using the PhAST software Program (Version 2.3, Phoenix Life Sciences, Inc.). The absolute bioavailability (F) is reported for oral doses relative to the IV dose.

[0328] FIG. 5 shows the mean pharmacokinetic parameters (and standard deviations therefore) of celecoxib in the plasma of male dogs following a single oral or single intravenous dose of celecoxib or celecoxib sodium. The maximum serum concentration and bioavailability of orally-administered celecoxib sodium was about three- and two-fold greater, respectively, than a roughly equal dose of

orally-administered celecoxib, and the maximum serum concentration of celecoxib sodium was reached 40% faster than for celecoxib.

EXAMPLE 8

[0329] Celecoxib-Lithium Salt Preparation Method: MO-116-49B

[0330] To 100 mg of commercially available Celecoxib was added 0.3 5M LiOH(aq) (Lithium Hydroxide Monohydrate—Aldrich Cat#25,427-4, Lot 00331K1) solution with a Lithium:celecoxib ratio of 1.53:1 in a vial with a Teflon coated silicon rubber septum cap. The mixture was gently heated during dissolution with occasional swirling until all solids dissolved. Flowing dry nitrogen was blown over the solution for 2 days through stainless steel needles inserted into the septum cap until the solution was dry. Characterization of the product was achieved via DSC (FIG. 14), TGA (FIG. 15), Raman spectroscopy (FIG. 16) and PXRD (FIG. 17).

[0331] Celecoxib-Lithium Salt Data (DSC)

[0332] 1.56 mg of collected sample was placed into an aluminum DSC pan with cover. During heating, 50 ml/min nitrogen purge gas was used. Results of the DSC thermogram (FIG. 14) show a melting point at 111.84 degrees C. and a second endotherm, less sharp at 237.11 degrees C.

[0333] Celecoxib-Lithium Salt Data (TGA)

[0334] 8.2290 mg of collected sample was placed into a platinum TGA pan. Results of the TGA (FIG. 15) demonstrated about a 14% weight loss between about 25 degrees C. and 190 degrees C.

[0335] Celecoxib-Lithium Salt (MO-116-49A) Data (Raman)

[0336] A small quantity of collected sample was placed on a glass slide and mounted in the Thermo Nicolet Almega Dispersive Raman. The sample capture was set to 6 background scans and 12 sample collection scans. The parameters used for this analysis were:

DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION	SPECTROMETER DESCRIPTION
Exposure time: 2.00 sec	Spectrometer: Visible Raman Microscope
Number of exposures: 12	Laser: 785 nm
Number of background exposures: 6	Laser power level: 100%
	Laser polarization: Parallel
	Grating: 360 lines/mm
	Spectrograph aperture: 100 μ m slit
	Sample position: Microscope
	Camera temperature: -50 C.
	CCD rows binned: 89-150
	CCD binning: On chip
	RIM position: Mirror
	Polarization analyzer: Out
	Illuminators: Off

[0337] Results of Raman spectroscopy show multiple spectral peaks that can be used to characterize the salt. These include any one, any two, any three, any four, any five, any six, any seven, any eight, any nine, any ten, or any other combination of peaks of FIG. 16, e.g., 1617.10, 1596.95, 1449.56, 1374.03, 1115.24, 1062.85, 976.50, 800.67, 740.91 and 633.94.

[0338] Celecoxib-Lithium Salt Data (PXRD)

[0339] A small amount of collected sample was placed in a 0.3 mm glass PXRD tube. The tube was placed into a Rigaku D/Max Rapid PXRD and set to: Cu; 46 kV/40 mA; Collimeter:0.3; Omega-axis oscillation, Pos(deg) 0-5, speed 1; Phi-axis spin, Pos 360, Speed 2; Collection time was equal to 15 minutes. The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks as shown in FIG. 17. PXRD peaks that can be used to characterize the salt include any one, or combination of any two, any three, any four, any five, any six, any seven, any eight, any nine, any ten or any other combination of peaks from FIG. 17, e.g., 4.18, 9.04, 10.705, 12.47, 15.75, 18.71, 19.64, 20.52, 21.55 and 23.0.

EXAMPLE 9

[0340] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt: Preparation Method MO-116-49A

[0341] 100 mg of Celecoxib (Fako Ilaclari A.S.) was dissolved in a 0.35M KOH(aq) solution (Potassium Hydroxide—Spectrum, Cat#P0180, Lot#PN0690) with a Potassium:Celecoxib ratio of 1.40:1 in a vial with a Teflon coated silicon rubber septum cap. The resulting solution was gently warmed during dissolution with occasional swirling until all solids dissolved. After all solids were dissolved, the solution was dried by flowing dry nitrogen over the solution for 2 days through stainless steel needles inserted into the septum cap. Analysis of the resulting product was performed. Characterization of the product was achieved via DSC (FIG. 18), TGA (FIG. 19), Raman spectroscopy (FIG. 20) and PXRD (FIG. 21).

[0342] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-49A) Data (DSC)

[0343] 1.119 mg of collected sample was placed into an aluminum DSC pan with cover. The results are depicted in the graph of FIG. 18 and show a melting point endotherm at 87.39 degrees C.

[0344] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-49A) Data (TGA)

[0345] 5.9890 mg of collected sample was placed into a platinum TGA pan. The pan was placed in TA Instruments Q500 TGA and heated 10° C./min to 90° C., held for 10 minutes, ramped 10° C./min to 300° C., and held for 10 minutes with 40 ml/min nitrogen purge gas. The results are depicted in FIG. 19 and show a 5.778% weight loss between 25 and 200 degrees C. A shoulder in the data is seen at 80 degrees C. Weight loss before this point is due to unbound water. The weight loss between 80 and 200 degrees C. is due to more closely bound water, and represents 0.64 equivalents of water.

[0346] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-49A) Data (Raman)

[0347] A small quantity of collected sample was placed on a glass slide and mounted in the Thermo Nicolet Almega Dispersive Raman. The sample capture was set to 6 background scans and 12 sample collections. The parameters used for this analysis were:

DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION	SPECTROMETER DESCRIPTION
Exposure time: 2.00 sec	Spectrometer: Visible Raman Microscope
Number of exposures: 12	Laser: 785 nm
Number of background exposures: 6	Laser power level: 100%
	Laser polarization: Parallel
	Grating: 360 lines/mm
	Spectrograph aperture: 100 μ m slit
	Sample position: Microscope
	Camera temperature: -50 C.
	CCD rows binned: 89-150
	CCD binning: On chip
	RIM position: Mirror
	Polarization analyzer: Out
	Illuminators: Of

[0348] The results are depicted in FIG. 20 and show characteristic Raman shift (cm^{-1}) peaks at positions including, but not limited to any one or combination of any two, any three, any four, any five or all six of the peaks: 1617.66, 1448.22, 1374.09, 976.28, 801.60, or any combinations of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or more peaks of FIG. 20.

[0349] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-49A) Data (PXRD)

[0350] A small amount of collected sample was placed in a 0.3 mm glass PXRD tube. The tube was placed in Rigaku D/Max Rapid PXRD set to Cu; 46 kV/40 mA; Collimator: 0.3; Omega-axis oscillation, Pos(deg) 0-5, speed 1; Phi-axis spin, Pos 360, Speed 2; Collection time was equal to 15 minutes. The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks as shown in FIG. 21. Peaks can be seen at 2-theta angles including, but not limited to, 4.03, 12.23, 15.35, and 19.79. The crystal can be characterized by any one or combination of any two, any three, or all four, of the above angles or any one or any number combination of 2-theta angles of FIG. 21.

EXAMPLE 10

[0351] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt: Preparation Method MO-116-55D

[0352] An alternative method of preparing a celecoxib-potassium salt of the instant invention was performed. 100 mg of celecoxib (commercially available) was dissolved in 2.2 mL toluene and 0.1 mL methanol in a vial with a TEFLON® coated silicon rubber septum cap. The solution was warmed gently during dissolution with occasional swirling until all solids were dissolved. 1.03 equivalents of KOH (Potassium Hydroxide—Spectrum, Cat#P0180, Lot#PN0690) using a 3M KOH(aq) solution were added to the solution. After the resulting phase separation, the bottom phase was removed and was dried by flowing dry nitrogen over the solution for 1 day through stainless steel needles inserted into the septum cap.

[0353] Analysis was performed. Characterization of the product was achieved via TGA (FIG. 22), Raman spectroscopy (FIG. 23) and PXRD (FIG. 24).

[0354] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-55D) Data (TGA)

[0355] 5.4470 mg of collected sample was placed into a platinum TGA pan. The pan was placed in TA Instruments

Q500 TGA and heated 10° C./min to 90° C., held for 10 minutes, ramped 10° C./min to 300° C., and held for 10 minutes with 40 ml/min nitrogen purge gas. The results are depicted in FIG. 22 and show a weight loss of about 4.9 wt % from 25 degrees C. to 200 degrees C. and about 2.9 wt % at a shoulder from about 70 degrees C. to 200 degrees C. Initial weight loss before the shoulder is most likely to the evaporation of methanol. The weight loss after the shoulder is most likely due to excess water.

[0356] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-55D) Data (Raman)

[0357] A small quantity of collected sample was placed on a glass slide and mounted in the Thermo Nicolet Almaga Dispersive Raman. The sample capture was set to 6 background scans and 12 sample collection scans. The parameters of the spectrometer were as follows:

DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION	SPECTROMETER DESCRIPTION
Exposure time: 2.00 sec	Spectrometer: Visible Raman Microscope
Number of exposures: 12	Laser: 785 nm
Number of background exposures: 6	Laser power level: 100%
	Laser polarization: Parallel
	Grating: 360 lines/mm
	Spectrograph aperture: 100 μ m slit
	Sample position: Microscope
	Camera temperature: -50 C.
	CCD rows binned: 89-150
	CCD binning: On chip
	RIM position: Mirror
	Polarization analyzer: Out
	Illuminators: Of

[0358] The results are depicted in FIG. 23 and show characteristic Raman shift (cm^{-1}) peaks at positions including, but not limited to any one or combination of any two, any three, any four, any five or any six, any seven, any eight, any nine, any ten, or all eleven of the peaks 1615.51, 1446.09, 1374.28, 1232.91, 1197.04, 1108.99, 1060.94, 973.01, 798.86, 739.82, 633.37 or any one or combinations of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or more peaks of FIG. 23.

[0359] Celecoxib-Potassium Salt (MO-116-55D) Data (PXRD)

[0360] A small amount of collected sample was placed in a 0.3 mm glass PXRD tube. The tube was placed into a Rigaku D/Max Rapid PXRD set to Cu; 46 kV/40 mA; Collimator: 0.3; Omega-axis oscillation, Pos(deg) 0-5, speed 1; Phi-axis spin, Pos 360, Speed 2; Collection time was equal to 15 minutes. The results are depicted in FIG. 24.

EXAMPLE 11

[0361] Celecoxib-Calcium Salt: Preparation Method MO-116-62A

[0362] 100 mg of celecoxib (commercially available) was dissolved in a 1M NaOH methanol solution at a 1:1 ratio of NaOH:Celecoxib in a vial and heated gently with occasional swirling until all solids were dissolved. 3M CaCl_2 in methanol was added to achieve a ratio of 1.5:1 Ca^{2+} to Celecoxib. The precipitate was filtered with a centrifuge tube filter (Corning Inc. Costar (0.22 micron) #8169) in an Eppendorf

Centrifuge (5415D) set at 12000 rpm for 5 minutes. The upper section of the Eppendorf tube containing the solids was placed into a vial with a rubber septum cap. The powder was dried overnight by flowing dry nitrogen into the vial through stainless steel needles inserted in the septum cap.

[0363] Analysis was performed. Characterization of the product was achieved via TGA (FIG. 25), Raman spectroscopy (FIG. 26) and PXRD (FIG. 27).

[0364] Celecoxib-Calcium Salt (MO-116-62A) Data (TGA)

[0365] 3.4140 mg of collected sample was placed into a platinum TGA pan. The pan was placed in TA Instruments Q500 TGA and heated 10° C./min to 90° C., held for 10 minutes, ramped 10° C./min to 300° C., and held for 10 minutes with 40 ml/min nitrogen purge gas. Results (FIG. 25) show a weight loss of about 4.2% between 25 and 200 degrees C. and about 3.2% between 70 and 200 degrees C. Initial weight loss below 70 degrees C. is due to unbound solvent. The shoulder seen after 70 degrees C. is due to the loss of more closely bound methanol and represents 0.45 equivalents of methanol.

[0366] Celecoxib-Calcium Salt (MO-116-62A) Data (Raman)

[0367] A small quantity of collected sample was placed on a glass slide and mounted in the Thermo Nicolet Almega Dispersive Raman. The sample capture was set to 6 background scans and 12 sample collection scans.

DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION	SPECTROMETER DESCRIPTION
Exposure time: 2.00 sec	Spectrometer: Visible Raman Microscope
Number of exposures: 12	Laser: 785 nm
Number of background exposures: 6	Laser power level: 100%
	Laser polarization: Parallel
	Grating: 360 lines/mm
	Spectrograph aperture: 100 μ m slit
	Sample position: Microscope
	Camera temperature: -50 C.
	CCD rows binned: 89-150
	CCD binning: On chip
	RIM position: Mirror
	Polarization analyzer: Out
	Illuminators: Of

[0368] Characteristic raman shift (cm^{-1}) peaks were observed at positions including, but not limited to, any one, any two, any three, any four, any five, and six or all seven of the peaks 16.16.99, 1598.42, 1450.05, 1376.57, 973.10, 800.62, 642.20, or any combinations of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or more peaks of FIG. 26.

[0369] Celecoxib-Calcium Salt (MO-116-62A) Data (PXRD)

[0370] A small amount of collected sample was placed into a 0.3 mm glass PXRD tube. The tube was placed in Rigaku D/Max Rapid PXRD set to Cu; 46 kV/40 mA; Collimeter:0.3; Omega-axis oscillation, Pos(deg) 0-5, speed 1; Phi-axis spin, Pos 360, Speed 2; Collection time was equal to 15 minutes. An intense peak was observed at 2-theta angle of 31.67 and lesser peaks at 7.82, 9.27, 20.56, and 27.35. Any one or combination of 2, 3, 4, or 5 of the

preceding peaks can be used to characterize the salt, as well as, any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or more peaks of FIG. 27.

EXAMPLE 12

[0371] Comparative Analysis of Neutral Celecoxib

[0372] To aid in the analysis of some of the data retrieved, commercially available celecoxib was subjected to the same analytical techniques of particle-induced X-ray diffraction (PXRD) and Raman spectroscopy. The results were used as a comparison for the salts of the instant invention.

[0373] Comparison Data: Celecoxib (PXRD)

[0374] A small amount of commercially available celecoxib was placed in a 0.3 mm glass PXRD tube. The tube was placed in Rigaku D/Max Rapid PXRD set to Cu; 46 kV/40 mA; Collimeter:0.3; Omega-axis oscillation, Pos(deg) 0-5, speed 1; Phi-axis spin, Pos 360, Speed 2; Collection time was equal to 15 minutes. The results are depicted in FIG. 28.

[0375] Some of the peaks of the free acid may also be found in the compositions of the present invention. As a further means of characterizing the compositions of the present invention, the peaks characteristic of the free acid, as shown in FIG. 28, may also be specifically excluded from compositions of the present invention.

[0376] Comparison Data: Celecoxib (Raman)

[0377] A small quantity of commercially available celecoxib was placed on a glass slide and mounted in the Thermo Nicolet Almega Dispersive Raman. The sample capture was set to 6 background scans and 12 sample collection. The parameters were as follows:

DATA COLLECTION INFORMATION	SPECTROMETER DESCRIPTION
Exposure time: 2.00 sec	Spectrometer: Visible Raman Microscope
Number of exposures: 12	Laser: 785 nm
Number of background exposures: 6	Laser power level: 100%
	Laser polarization: Parallel
	Grating: 360 lines/mm
	Spectrograph aperture: 100 μ m slit
	Sample position: Microscope
	Camera temperature: -50 C.
	CCD rows binned: 89-150
	CCD binning: On chip
	RIM position: Mirror
	Polarization analyzer: Out
	Illuminators: Of

[0378] The results are depicted in FIG. 29.

EXAMPLE 13

[0379] Solid-state formulations based on selected PLURONIC excipients in combination with hydroxypropylcellulose (BPC) and the crystalline celecoxib sodium hydrate salt, prepared using traditional mortar and pestle technique, showed enhanced dissolution of the celecoxib salt in simulated gastric fluid.

[0380] This example demonstrates that related solid-state formulations enhance the dissolution and retard the recrystallization/precipitation of celecoxib salts as compared to the

celecoxib freeacid compound. The processes used to identify and test the preferred excipients in these examples are two-fold: (1) A "Crystal Retardation Assay" was used to identify excipients that supersaturate celecoxib in solution; and (2) In-vitro dissolution studies were performed on selected excipients to verify the "Crystal Retardation Assay" results.

EXAMPLE 14

[0381] Crystal Retardation Assay

[0382] Crystal Retardation Assay—Method

[0383] 1. 58 excipients according to Table 1 were prepared at a concentration of 2 mg/ml (0.2% by weight) in simulated gastric fluid having 200 mM hydrochloric acid and dispensed in quadruplicate in 96-well plates at a volume of 150 μ l. Two controls were used: (a) Simulated gastric fluid lacking excipients; and (b) Simulated gastric fluid containing 2 mg/ml Vitamin E TPGS and 2 mg/ml HPC. The latter control was chosen because of prior indication that this excipient combination provides enhanced dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate. Simulated gastric fluid was prepared by adding 2 g/L sodium chloride and 1 g/L Triton X-100 to DI H₂O. 200 mM hydrochloric acid was added to adjust and buffer the pH.

TABLE 1

Excipients use in Recrystallization/precipitation Retardation Assay		
2 Ethoxyethanol	Polyethyleneglycol Monooleate (Mapeg 400-MO)	PLURONIC P123
Alkamus 719		
Alkamus EL 620	Polyethyleneglycol 300	PLURONIC P85
Alkamus EL 719	PLURONIC 17R2	Poloxamer 188
Benzyl Alcohol	PLURONIC F108	Poloxamer 338
Cremophor EL	PLURONIC F127	Polypropyl 52
Cremophor RH40	PLURONIC F38	Polysorbate 40
Crillet 1 HP	PLURONIC F68	Polysorbate 80
Crovol A-70	PLURONIC F77	Propylene Glycol
Ethosperse G-26	PLURONIC F87	Polyvinylpyrrolidone 10K
Ethylene Glycol	PLURONIC F88	Polyvinylpyrrolidone 360K
Glycerin	PLURONIC F98	Polyvinylpyrrolidone 55K
HEC 250K		Saccharin
Hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC)	PLURONIC L31	Sodium lauryl sulphate
Isopropanolamine	PLURONIC L43	Tagat 02
Myrj 52	PLURONIC L44	Transcutol P
Polyethyleneglycol 1000	PLURONIC L92	Triacetin
Polyethyleneglycol 200	PLURONIC P103	Triethanol amine
Polyethyleneglycol 400	PLURONIC P104	Vitamin E TPGS
Polyethyleneglycol 600	PLURONIC P105	Vitamin E TPGS & HPC

[0384] 2. The 96-well plates were sealed, and incubated to a temperature of 40° C. for 20 minutes. After incubation, the plate seals were removed.

[0385] 3. Celecoxib, pre-dissolved in potassium hydroxide to a concentration of 5.5 mg/ml, was dispensed in 15 μ l aliquots into each well and immediately mixed. This gave a final celecoxib concentration of 0.5 ml/ml in each well. The final excipient concentration was 1.8 mg/ml.

[0386] 4. A nephelometer (Nephelostar Galaxy, BMG Technologies, Durham, N.C.), with a chamber pre-heated to 37° C., was used to analyze the ability of the excipients to retard the crystallization of supersaturated celecoxib. The assay plate containing celecoxib and excipients was sealed using an optically clear seal and placed into the nephelometer instrument. The nephelometer recorded changes in solution turbidity over a 1 hour time period. Solutions that showed signs of increasing turbidity over a baseline indicated that celecoxib had precipitated out solution.

[0387] Crystal retardation Assay—Results:

[0388] FIG. 30 shows crystal retardation time for celecoxib as a function of excipient in simulated gastric fluid (SGF). Final concentration of celecoxib was 0.5 mg/ml. Black bars indicate crystal retardation time that may be greater than 60 min. Excipients listed in Table I, but excluded from FIG. 30 did not show any appreciable crystal retardation time (i.e., greater than 1.5 min). Nineteen of 58 excipients were found to retard recrystallization/precipitation of celecoxib. Interestingly, in contrast to the dissolution assay, Vitamin E TPGS alone had a longer retardation time than in combination with HPC alone did not show any retardation time.

[0389] Importantly, formulations that increase the solubility of a drug will not necessarily increase the dissolution. For example, according to PCT application WO 01/78724, the solubility of celecoxib freeacid in Transcutol P is 350 mg/g. It was found that in contrast to enhancing solubility, Transcutol P does not enhance dissolution of the free acid. Transcutol P does extend the time to T_{max} and increases the time the concentration of celecoxib is above ½ T_{max} when used in combination with a recrystallization/precipitation retardant and enhancer. It was further found that dissolution of a salt form is far superior to the dissolution of composition comprising the free acid.

[0390] The presence of six PLURONIC (poloxamer) excipients among successful crystal retardants prompted further study of these compounds. PLURONICs are ethylene oxide—propylene oxide block copolymers, whose properties can be significantly altered (i.e., melting point, cloud point, molecular weight, HLB number, surface tension, interfacial tension, etc.) by adjusting the ratio of copolymer blocks. Further examination of these properties showed that the surface tension of these copolymers at a 0.1% concentration in water correlates with the ability to retard the crystallization of celecoxib. PLURONIC excipients having low interfacial tension (i.e., less than about 10 dyne/cm) or having a surface tension less than about 42 dyne/cm were more effective at keeping celecoxib in solution than PLURONIC excipients having high interfacial tension or surface tension. This observation is illustrated in FIG. 31, along with interfacial data for PLURONICs that were not tested. Based on this correlation, the supersaturation properties of these additional PLURONICs also correlate with interfacial tension.

[0391] FIG. 31 shows interfacial tension of selected PLURONIC excipients in water. PLURONIC excipients having low interfacial tension correlate with excipients that retard crystallization of celecoxib in simulated gastric fluid. An interfacial tension threshold for crystal retardation was

loosely defined as less than about 9 or 10 dyne/cm. Excipient concentration in the assay was 0.18%; celecoxib concentration was 0.5 mg/ml. Interfacial data obtained from BASF at 0.1% concentration in water versus mineral oil at 25° C. (PLURONIC is a trademark of BASF).

EXAMPLE 15

[0392] In Vitro Dissolution Studies of PLURONIC Excipients

[0393] In Vitro Dissolution Studies of PLURONIC Excipients—Method

[0394] 1. Celecoxib Preparation

[0395] a. Fresh celecoxib sodium salt hydrate was prepared and analyzed to be approximately 90% freeacid vs. sodium content.

[0396] b. The celecoxib salt was ground using mortar and pestle until fine powder was formed. The fine powder was sieved using a 105 um pore size mesh and stored in a 20 ml scintillation vial at room temperature.

[0397] 2. Formulation Preparation

[0398] a. Fresh PLURONIC excipient was dispensed into a mortar. If initially a solid at room temperature, the PLURONIC was ground until a smooth powder was formed.

[0399] b. If BPC was to be added, it was dispensed after the PLURONIC excipient. The HPC was combined with the PLURONIC and the two were ground together using a pestle and mixed with a spatula for 1 minute.

[0400] c. 105 um sieved celecoxib salt was added to mortar and the mixture was ground and mixed for several minutes.

[0401] d. If needed, a liquid excipient such as Poloxamer 124, Peg 200, or Peg 400 was added to the mortar as a granulating fluid-like liquid to form an intimate contact between drug and excipient. The mixture was ground and mixed until a uniform consistency was observed in the solid-state mixture.

[0402] 3. Dissolution Assay

[0403] a. A water bath was set up at 37° C.

[0404] b. Simulated gastric fluid in the fasted state (SGF) was prepared at pH 1.7 and diluted five times with deionized water. The final pH was approximately 2.4. The simulated gastric fluid was diluted five times to simulate the effect of drinking a glass of water with the medication. The SGF was pre-heated to 37° C.

[0405] c. The formulation was placed in a 20 ml scintillation vial.

[0406] d. A 10 mm×3 mm stir bar was added.

[0407] e. Diluted SGF was added to the formulation. The volume added was set to satisfy a 2 mg/ml dose of celecoxib free acid.

[0408] f. The vial was placed in the water bath and allowed to stir.

[0409] g. At each time point, 0.9 ml of solution was extracted and filtered through a 0.2 um polyvinyl-fluoridine filter. The first $\frac{2}{3}$ of filtrate was discarded as waste and the last $\frac{1}{3}$ was collected into an eppendorf tube. 0.1 ml of the collected filtrate was immediately transferred to an autosampler vial and diluted ten times with 0.9 ml of methanol. The autosampler vials were crimp sealed and submitted for content analysis using high performance liquid chromatography with ultra-violet detection.

[0410] In Vitro Dissolution Studies of PLURONIC Excipients—Results:

[0411] 1. Dissolution of two PLURONIC excipients that had low interfacial tension: PLURONIC P123 and F127. PLURONIC P123 was a paste at room temperature, and resulted in sticky formulation of celecoxib salt. PLURONIC F127 was a solid at room temperature and formed a flowable powder solid-state mixture with the celecoxib salt. The dissolution result for these mixtures at equal weight concentrations of excipient to celecoxib freeacid content are shown in FIG. 32. PLURONIC P123 gave enhanced dissolution of celecoxib salt, while PLURONIC F127 did not. The poor performance of PLURONIC F127 in enhancing celecoxib dissolution was due to the slow dissolution of the excipient. In contrast, PLURONIC P123 was intimately bound with the celecoxib salt in a “sticky” waxy mass, which delayed the dissolution of celecoxib. This allowed the excipient to dissolve to a greater extent prior to the full dissolution of the celecoxib salt form.

[0412] 2. Dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate was performed in the presence of HPC using PLURONIC P123, PLURONIC F127, and PLURONIC F87; PLURONIC F87 has a high interfacial tension value. Equal weight concentrations of PLURONIC and HPC to celecoxib free acid content were used in the formulations. The PLURONIC P123 formulation was sticky due to the pasty nature of the excipient. The PLURONIC F127 and F87 formulation were flowable since these excipients are solids at room temperature. Dissolution data for these formulations are shown in FIG. 33. The data showed that addition of HPC in the PLURONIC P123 formulation produced a widening of the dissolution profile. In the PLURONIC F127 formulation, HPC enhanced the initial dissolution component of the profile (i.e. <10 minutes). In contrast, no dissolution profile was observed in the PLURONIC F87 formulation. Since PLURONIC 87 has a high interfacial tension (17.4 dyne/cm), the resulting data supports the correlation of crystal retardants with interfacial tension. Since the PLURONIC P123 formulation (i.e., sticky) showed a dissolution profile that was enhanced to a greater extent than the PLURONIC F127 formulation (i.e., loose powder) in terms of time to recrystallization/precipitation, it was hypothesized that the addition of an excipient that physically binds the components of the PLURONIC F127 formulation will result in further dissolution enhancement.

[0413] 3. Dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate using PLURONIC F127 and HPC was performed

using a granulated fluid-like liquid to bind the solid-state mixture. Three granulating fluid-like liquids were chosen: Peg 200, Peg 400, and Poloxamer 124. Equal weight ratios of celecoxib free acid content, PLURONIC F127, and HPC were formulated with 40-45% celecoxib freeacid weight of granulating fluid. The effect of these formulations on dissolution is shown in **FIG. 34**. The granulating fluid-like liquids increased the dissolution of celecoxib, possibly by delaying the contact between the celecoxib salt and the dissolution media until PLURONIC F127 had been dissolved to a significant extent.

- [0414] Dissolution of celecoxib sodium hydrate was then measured from a compacted formulation containing PLURONIC F127 and HPC excipients. Formulations containing equal weight ratios of celecoxib freeacid content, PLURONIC F127, and HPC were mixed and compacted into 6 mm discs at 4900 psi. Dissolution results, shown in **FIG. 35**, indicated enhanced dissolution with onset retarded by approximately 15-20 minutes. The compaction process produced a similar effect on dissolution to that observed by the addition of a granulating fluid (see **FIG. 34**) with the addition of controlled release mechanism. The controlled release characteristic of the profile can be modulated by selecting HPC or HPMC with varying grades of viscosity and the addition of disintegrants into the compact. Compacts are attractive formulations due to their lower production cost and fewer processing steps.

EXAMPLE 16

[0415] General Method of Crystal Retardation Assay

[0416] The methods described above are specific examples of general methods of the present invention aimed at identifying excipients that retard the nucleation of solid-state API, their derivatives, and other non-pharmaceutical compounds of marketable interest from a solution supersaturated with API. The method is outlined in **FIG. 36** and is described as follows:

- [0417] 1. Excipients are dissolved to a desired concentration in de-ionized (DI) water or other media (i.e., simulated gastric or intestinal fluids).
- [0418] 2. API is dissolved in a suitable solvent in which it has high solubility (i.e., acidic pH environment for freebase type API; and basic pH environment for freeacid type API).
- [0419] 3. The excipient solutions are dispensed into an assay plate (i.e., 96-well or 384-well optically clear plate) either manually or using automated liquid handling equipment. The excipients can be added as single, binary, ternary, or higher order excipient-excipient combinations into each well. An example of a liquid handling instrument is the Tecan Genesis (Tecan U.S. Inc, Research Triangle Park, N.C.).
- [0420] 4. The API solution is dispensed into the assay plate. The API solution can be dispensed one well at a time, by rows, or columns using the Tecan Genesis instrument or simultaneously into all wells using the Tecan Genmate instrument. The volume of API

solution added is restricted to a small size to avoid causing any shifts in the properties of the excipient solution.

- [0421] 5. The solutions are mixed to uniformly distribute the API throughout the excipient solution. The plate is sealed and incubated at a desired temperature.
- [0422] 6. Onset of solid-state nucleation is determined using an instrument capable of measuring light scatter. Examples of light scatter measurement capable instruments are the NepheloStar nephelometer (BMG Technologies, Durham, N.C.) and the SPECTRAmax PLUS plate reader (Molecular Devices Corp, Sunnyvale, Calif.). Temperature is maintained at a constant pre-defined set point by the incubation features of the light scatter instruments.
- [0423] 7. Birefringence screening, PXRD, etc. may be performed to determine if precipitated API is amorphous or crystalline. If the API is crystalline, crystal habit and particle size can be recorded.
- [0424] 8. The data is analyzed and the excipients are ranked according to their respective retardation times.
- [0425] 9. Informatics may be used to correlate successful excipients that retard nucleation with physical property information.

[0426] Typical Information Obtained from the Methods:

- [0427] 1. Solid-state retardation time as a function of excipient
- [0428] 2. Qualitative measure of crystallization kinetics as a function of excipient
- [0429] 3. API final solid-state form analysis (i.e., amorphous, crystalline, habit) in excipient solutions

EXAMPLE 17

[0430] Illustration of Resulting Data

[0431] Goal: Identify excipients that retard the solid-state nucleation of Compound A in Fluid F at a temperature of 37° C.

[0432] Method:

- [0433] 1. 24 excipient solutions were prepared at a concentration of 16 mg/ml in DI water.
- [0434] 2. Fluid F was prepared in DI H2O by mixing ingredients at twice the desired final concentration.
- [0435] 3. API solution was prepared at a concentration of 5.5 mg/ml in Fluid C.
- [0436] 4. The Tecan Genesis instrument was used to dispense a combination of 75 ul Fluid F, 18.75 ul excipient solution, and 56.25 ul DI H2O into each well of a 96-well plate. The final concentration of excipient in each well was 2 mg/ml in Fluid F. The total fluid volume per well was 150 ul. 4 replicates wells were used for each single excipient solution. An example of the layout is shown in **FIG. 37**.

- [0437] 5. The plate was sealed using a transparent seal (Part No. 6575; Corning Incorporated, Corning, N.Y.) and incubated at 40° C. for 20 minutes.
- [0438] 6. The seal was removed and 15 μ l of API solution was dispensed simultaneously into all 96-wells. The final concentration of API in each well was 0.5 mg/ml. (Note: The time dependence for solid-state nucleation began as soon as the API solution was added.)
- [0439] 7. The well contents were mixed and sealed using the transparent seal (Part No. 6575; Corning Incorporated, Corning, N.Y.).
- [0440] 8. The plate was placed on the Nephelostar instrument to collect light scatter data over a 1 hour time period. The Nephelostar incubated the plate at 37° C. as specified in the goal of the assay.
- [0441] 9. At the end of the assay, the data was analyzed using Microsoft Excel and retardation times were calculated. An example of collected light scatter data is shown in FIG. 38. Onset of solid-state nucleation is defined as the time when the light scatter signal increases above the baseline signal. The threshold limit for the increase of the light scatter signal used to define a precipitation/crystallization event is usually set at three times the standard deviation of the baseline signal to take into account background noise. The threshold can be set however, to a different value depending on the sensitivity of the assay and the desired limit of precipitation/crystallization.
- [0442] 10. The retardation times (in any) for the excipient solutions were ranked. FIG. 30 shows a graphical representation of the ranking.
- [0443] Non-limiting examples of alternatives to this general method include:
- [0444] 1. Retardation time can be measured as a function of excipient concentration.
- [0445] 2. Retardation time can be measured as a function of API salt or co-crystal concentration.
- [0446] 3. API can be concentrated in a non-aqueous medium prior to assay.
- [0447] 4. Temperature can be varied and controlled according to a desired specification.
- [0448] 5. Instead of mixing the compound solution with the excipient solution, the test excipient can be mixed with the api in the compound solution prior to combining with the aqueous/SGF/SIF or other test solution (which is the excipient solution minus the excipient).
- [0449] FIG. 39 shows the results of TGA. A weight loss of about 15.6% was observed between about 65° and 200° C. FIG. 40 shows the results of PXRD. Peaks, in 2-theta angles, that can be used to characterize the solvate include any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 of the following: 3.77, 7.57, 8.21, 11.33, 14.23, 16.15, 18.69, 20.63, 22.69 and 24.77 or any one or any combination of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more peaks of FIG. 40. The other peaks of the graphs may also be used alone or in any combination to characterize the salt.

EXAMPLE 18

[0450] Propylene Glycol Solvate of Celecoxib Sodium Salt

[0451] A propylene glycol solvates of the sodium salt of celecoxib was prepared. To a solution of celecoxib (312 mg; 0.818 mmol) in Et₂O (6 mL) was added propylene glycol (0.127 mL, 1.73 mmol). To the clear solution was added NaOEt in EtOH (21%, 0.275 μ L, 0.817 mmol). After 1 minute, crystals began to form. After 5 minutes, the solid had completely crystallized. The solid was collected by filtration and was washed with Et₂O (10 mL). The off-white solid was then air-dried and collected. This was a 1:1 solvate. The solid was characterized by TGA and PXRD. The results are depicted in FIGS. 39 and 40.

EXAMPLE 19

[0452] A propylene glycol solvate of the potassium salt of celecoxib was prepared. To a solution of celecoxib (253 mg, 0.664 mmol) in Et₂O (6 mL) was added propylene glycol (0.075 mL, 1.02 mmol). To the clear solution was added KOtBu in THF (1 M, 0.66 mL, 0.66 mmol). Crystals immediately began to form. After 5 minutes, the solid had completely crystallized. The solid was collected by filtration and was washed with Et₂O (10 mL). The white solid was then air-dried and collected. This solid was a 1:1 solvate. The solid was characterized by TGA and PXRD. The results are depicted in FIGS. 41 and 42.

[0453] FIG. 41 shows the results of TGA. A weight loss of about 14.94% was observed between about 65° and about 250° C. FIG. 42 shows the results of PXRD. Peaks; in 2-theta angles, that can be used to characterize the solvate include any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 of the following: 3.75, 7.47, 11.33, 14.93, 15.65, 18.31, 20.47, 21.71, and 24.67 or any one or any combination of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more peaks of FIG. 42.

EXAMPLE 20

[0454] A propylene glycol solvate of lithium salt of celecoxib was prepared. To a solution of celecoxib (264 mg, 0.693 mmol) in Et₂O (8 mL) was added propylene glycol (0.075 mL, 1.02 mmol). To the clear solution was added tBu-Li in pentane (1.7 M, 0.40 mL, 0.68 mmol). A brown solid formed immediately but dissolved within one minute yielding white solid. The white solid crystallized completely after 10 minutes. The solid was collected by filtration and was washed with Et₂O (10 mL). The white solid was then air-dried and collected. The solid was a 1:1 solvate. The solid was characterized by TGA and PXRD. The results of TGA are depicted in FIG. 42 and show a weight loss of about 16.3% between 50° C. and 210° C. The results of PXRD are shown in FIG. 51. Characteristic peaks of 2-theta angles that can be used to characterize the salt include any one, or combination of any 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 of 3.79, 7.51, 8.19, 9.83, 11.41, 15.93, 18.29, 19.19, 19.87, 20.63, 22.01, 25.09 or any one or any combination of peaks of FIG. 51.

EXAMPLE 21

[0455] Celecoxib Na Propylene Glycol Trihydrate

[0456] Preparation:

[0457] a.) Celecoxib Na propylene glycol was formed by allowing the celecoxib sodium salt pro-

propylene glycol solvate to sit at 60% RH and 20° C. for 3 days. (Note: formation of the trihydrate at 75% and 40° C. as well). The trihydrate starts forming somewhere between 31 and 40% RH at room temperature.

[0458] The results of TGA and PXRD are shown in FIG. 44. FIG. 44 shows the results of TGA where an about 9.64% weight loss was observed between room temperature and 60° C. and an about 13.6% weight loss was observed between about 60° C. and 175° C.

[0459] The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks at 2-theta angles shown in FIG. 45. Any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or more peaks can be used to characterize the solvate, including for example, peaks at 3.47, 6.97, 10.37, 13.97, 16.41, 19.45, 21.29, 22.69, 23.87 and 25.75.

[0460] b.) The trihydrate can also be formed by crystallization of Celecoxib Na propylene glycol in the presence of H₂O. To a solution of Celecoxib (136.2 mg; 0.357 mmol) in Et₂O (6.0 mL), H₂O (0.025 mL; 1.39 mmol), and propylene glycol (0.030 mL; 0.408 mmol) was added NaOEt in EtOH (21 wt. %; 0.135 mL; 0.362 mmol). A solid formed within one minute and was isolated via filtration. The solid was then washed with additional Et₂O (2.0 mL) and allowed to air dry. This procedure gives essentially the same PXRD pattern but there is a slight excess of H₂O, which is probably surface water.

[0461] The results of TGA and PXRD are shown in FIG. 46. FIG. 46 shows the results of TGA where an about 10.92% weight loss was observed between room temperature and 50° C. and an about 12.95% weight loss was observed between about 50° C. and 195° C.

[0462] The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks at 2-theta angles shown in FIG. 47. Any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or more peaks can be used to characterize the solvate, including for example, peaks at 3.43, 6.95, 10.25, 13.95, 16.39, 19.43, 21.21, 22.61 and 25.71.

EXAMPLE 22

[0463] Celecoxib Na iPrOH

[0464] To a solution of Celecoxib (204.2 mg; 0.5354 mmol) in Et₂O (6.0 mL) was added iPrOH (0.070 mL). To the colorless solution was added a solution of NaOMe (0.5 M; 2.52 mL; 6.75 mmol) in MeOH followed by hexanes (3.0 mL). The volatiles were reduced under flowing N₂ gas. A white solid formed and was collected via filtration. After drying, the solid was found to be a 1.5 iPrOH solvate via TGA.

[0465] The results of DSC, TGA and PXRD analysis are shown in FIGS. 48-50. FIG. 48 shows the results of DSC analysis where a peak endotherm was observed at 67.69° C. The results of TGA, as shown in FIG. 49, revealed a weight loss of about 18.23% from about room temperature to about 120° C.

[0466] The PXRD pattern has characteristic peaks at 2-theta angles shown in FIG. 50. Any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, or more peaks can be used to characterize the solvate, including for example, peaks at 3.43, 7.03, 10.13, 11.75, 14.11, 16.61, 17.61, 18.49, 19.51, 20.97, 22.33, 22.81 and 25.93.

EXAMPLE 23

[0467] 1:1 Celecoxib: Nicotinamide Co-crystals.

[0468] Celecoxib (100 mg, 0.26 mmol) and Nicotinamide (32.0 mg, 0.26 mmol) were each dissolved in acetone (2 mL). The two solutions were mixed and the resulting mixture was allowed to evaporate slowly overnight. The precipitated solid was collected and characterized. Detailed characterization of the co-crystal was performed using DSC, TGA & PXRD. The results of DSC showed decomposition beginning at ~150° C. The results of TGA showed two phase transitions at 117.2 and 118.8° C. and a sharp endotherm at 129.7° C. The results of PXRD is shown in FIG. 52. Characteristic peaks that can be used to characterize the co-crystal include any one, or any combination of any 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 or 15 the peaks at 3.77, 7.56, 9.63, 14.76, 16.01, 17.78, 18.68, 19.31, 20.435, 21.19, 22.10, 23.80, 24.70, 25.295, and 26.73, or any one or any combination of any 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 or more peaks of FIG. 52.

EXAMPLE 24

[0469] As discussed above, the celecoxib sodium is a variable hydrate. To analyze the affect of hydration on crystal structure, the celecoxib sodium salt and celecoxib sodium salt propylene glycol solvate were analyzed by PXRD under 17%, 31%, 59% and 74% constant relative humidity at room temperature. The following table lists PXRD 2-theta angle peaks at the different relative humidities.

TABLE X

Celecoxib Sodium				Celecoxib Sodium Propylene Glycol			
17%	31%	59%	74%	17%	31%	59%	74%
3.51	3.51	3.49	3.59	3.79	3.82	3.49	3.47
3.99	3.95	3.95	4.61	7.65	7.61	3.95	6.97
8.87	8.91	4.61	5.23	8.75	8.69	4.61	10.21
9.51	9.51	5.35	8.91	11.45	11.44	5.35	11.85
10.75	11.59	7.79	9.51	12.19	12.19	9.21	12.97
11.59	11.97	8.09	10.77	16.47	15.29	10.77	13.97
13.45	13.31	8.93	11.29	18.43	15.88	11.62	16.41
18.47	14.45	9.21	12.99	19.21	16.43	13.89	17.39
19.09	18.49	10.79	13.85	20.91	17.19	14.82	18.23
20.17	19.05	11.63	14.43	22.13	18.45	16.05	18.87
21.55	20.13	12.97	14.83	22.95	19.17	17.47	19.45
21.91	20.47	13.89	16.07		20.84	18.43	20.63
31.67	21.53	14.59	16.75		22.09	20.43	21.27
	22.75	14.83	17.13		22.95	21.55	22.63
	22.71	16.05	17.97		23.99	22.41	23.91
	31.69	17.47	18.39		25.47	25.35	24.35
		18.43	18.71		31.05	35.23	25.73
		18.91	19.63			37.93	27.83
		19.57	19.89				29.11
		20.09	20.43				31.31
		20.43	21.55				31.87
		21.55	22.39				32.83
		22.41	23.43				33.59
		24.95	24.55				
		25.35	25.35				
		25.75	25.71				
		27.25	27.17				
		34.19	27.69				
		35.23	28.19				
		37.93	29.49				
			29.99				

TABLE X-continued

Celecoxib Sodium				Celecoxib Sodium Propylene Glycolol			
17%	31%	59%	74%	17%	31%	59%	74%
			32.29				
			37.87				

[0470] The composition can be characterized by any one or combination of any 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or more peaks listed in Table X or any one or combination of any 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 or more peaks of any one of FIGS. 53-60.

EXAMPLE 25

[0471] Multiple celecoxib sodium salt samples, all form M1, varying in hydration (believed to range from about 0.5-4 equivalents of H₂O per equivalent of celecoxib) was assayed by PXRD. The PXRD patterns were then grouped based on shared peaks. Several groups were identified with four of the these groups shown in FIG. 61. Group D is consistent with a mixture of amorphous and crystalline celecoxib sodium. Table Y lists PXRD peaks characteristic in common to groups A, B, and C and peaks that are specific to each group.

TABLE Y

Peaks common to all Variants of form M1	Peaks for form M1_A	Peaks for form M1_B	Peaks for form M1_C
3.7 ± 0.3°	9.5 ± 0.2°	9.5 ± 0.2°	12.1 ± 0.2°
8.9 ± 0.2°	11.3 ± 0.2°	11.4 ± 0.2°	14.7 ± 0.2°
10.7 ± 0.2°	17.2 ± 0.2°	13.3 ± 0.2°	
20 ± 0.2°		14.4 ± 0.2°	
21.8 ± 0.3°			

[0472] It is noted that as used herein, the term "TPI-336" refers to celecoxib or a celecoxib salt depending on the context.

1. A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

- (1) providing a plurality of containers;
- (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;
- (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;
- (4) dispensing into each container at least one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, a property of each mixture being varied in different containers;
- (5) incubating the mixture;
- (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation;
- (7) selecting a pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination whereby onset of solid-state nucleation is retarded; and

(8) producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination.

2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the property varied in step (4) comprises identity or amount of the excipient or the pharmaceutical compound.

3. A process according to claim 1, wherein each solution comprises an aqueous solution.

4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the mixture simulates gastric juices or intestinal fluids.

5. A process according to claim 1, wherein the compound solution is supersaturated.

6. A process according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of containers are presented in a multiple well plate format.

7. A process according to claim 1, wherein at least the step of dispensing is performed with automated liquid handling apparatus.

8. A process according to claim 1, wherein the intimate mixture is formed using a mixer.

9. A process according to claim 1, wherein the step of incubating the mixture is performed at constant temperature.

10. A process according to claim 9, wherein the temperature is approximately 37° C.

11. A process according to claim 1, wherein the onset of solid-state nucleation is determined by measuring the light scattering of the mixture.

12. A process according to claim 11, wherein the light scattering is measured using a nephelometer.

13. A process according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of determining the crystallinity of the product of solid-state nucleation before selecting the pharmaceutical compound/excipient combination.

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the crystallinity is determined by birefringence screening.

15. A pharmaceutical composition obtained by a process according to claim 1.

16. A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition, which comprises:

- (1) providing a plurality of containers;
 - (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;
 - (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;
 - (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, the excipient being varied in different containers;
 - (5) incubating the mixture;
 - (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation;
 - (7) selecting an excipient which is found to retard onset of solid-state nucleation; and
 - (8) producing a pharmaceutical composition comprising the pharmaceutical compound and the selected excipient.
17. A pharmaceutical composition obtained by a process according to claim 16.
18. A method for assessing excipient-mediated retardation of solid-state nucleation of a pharmaceutical compound, which method comprises:
- (1) providing a plurality of containers;
 - (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;

- (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;
- (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, a property of each mixture being varied in different containers;
- (5) incubating the mixture;
- (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation; and
- (7) ranking the property of the mixture according to time of onset of solid-state nucleation.

19. A method for screening excipients that retard solid-state nucleation of a pharmaceutical compound, which method comprises:

- (1) providing a plurality of containers;
- (2) providing a plurality of excipient solutions;
- (3) providing a plurality of compound solutions, each having dissolved therein a pharmaceutical compound;
- (4) dispensing into each container one of the excipient solutions with one of the compound solutions so as to form an intimate mixture, the excipient being varied in different containers;
- (5) incubating the mixture;
- (6) determining onset of solid-state nucleation; and
- (7) ranking the excipient according to time of onset of solid-state nucleation.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

- (a) a salt form of a drug having low solubility in gastric fluid conditions;
- (b) a recrystallization/precipitation retardant; and
- (c) an optional enhancer;

wherein the composition retards recrystallization/precipitation of the drug for at least 5 minutes in gastric fluid conditions.

21. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein the recrystallization/precipitation retardant is a surfactant.

22. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the surfactant has an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or a surface tension of less than 42 dyne/cm.

23. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the surfactant is a poloxamer.

24. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23, wherein the poloxamer has an interfacial tension of less than 10 dyne/cm or surface tension less than 42 dyne/cm.

25. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 21, wherein the composition comprises an enhancer.

26. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the composition comprises a cellulose ester as an enhancer.

27. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 23, wherein the composition comprises HPC or HPMC as an enhancer.

28. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 24, wherein the composition comprises HPC as an enhancer.

29. The composition according to claim 26, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 10 minutes.

30. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 15 minutes.

31. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 20 minutes.

32. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 25 minutes.

33. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 30 minutes.

34. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 35 minutes.

35. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 40 minutes.

36. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 45 minutes.

37. The composition according to claim 29, wherein recrystallization/precipitation is retarded for at least 60 minutes.

38. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein the drug comprises a sulfonamide drug.

39. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 38, wherein the sulfonamide drug is a benzene sulfonamide.

40. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39, wherein the benzene sulfonamide comprises celecoxib, deracoxib, valdecoxib, rofecoxib or eturicoxib.

41. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 39, wherein the benzene sulfonamide is in the form of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.

42. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein the aqueous solubility of the drug is not more than 0.1 mg/ml when measured at 37° C.

43. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein the aqueous solubility of the drug is not more than 10 mg/ml when measured at 37° C.

44. A process for producing a pharmaceutical composition for delivering a supersaturated concentration of a drug having low aqueous solubility, which process comprises intimately mixing together components (a) (b) and (c) of claim 20.

45. The process according to claim 44, wherein the drug comprises a sulfonamide drug.

46. A process according to claim 45, wherein the sulfonamide drug is a benzene sulfonamide.

47. The process according to claim 46, wherein the benzene sulfonamide comprises celecoxib, deracoxib, valdecoxib, rofecoxib or eturicoxib.

48. A process according to claim 47, wherein the benzene sulfonamide is in the form of an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.

49. The process according to claim 44, wherein the aqueous solubility of the drug is not more than 0.1 mg/ml when measured at 37° C.

50. The process according to claim 44, wherein the aqueous solubility of the drug is not more than 10 mg/ml when measured at 37° C.

51. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein the salt is an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal salt.

52. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein the metal is sodium, potassium, lithium, calcium or magnesium.

53. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 52, wherein the salt is crystalline.

54. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, wherein:

- (a) the bioavailability of the composition orally administered is at least 70%;
- (b) the bioavailability of the composition orally administered is at least 80%;
- (c) the bioavailability of the composition orally administered is at least 85%;
- (d) the bioavailability of the composition orally administered is at least 90%;
- (e) the bioavailability of the composition orally administered is at least 95%;
- (f) the Cmax is at least 2 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (g) the Cmax is at least 3 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (h) the Cmax is at least 4 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (i) the Cmax is at least 5 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (j) the Cmax is at least 10 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay; the Cmax is at least 2 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;

- (k) the Cmax is at least 25 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (l) the Cmax is at least 50 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (m) the Cmax is at least 100 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (n) the Cmax is at least 250 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (o) the Cmax is at least 500 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (p) the Cmax is at least 750 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (q) the Cmax is at least 1000 fold greater than a neutral form in vivo or in an in vitro dissolution assay;
- (r) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 50% greater than a neutral form;
- (s) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 75% greater than a neutral form;
- (t) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 2 fold that of a neutral form;
- (u) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 3 fold that of a neutral form;
- (v) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 4 fold that of a neutral form;
- (w) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 5 fold that of a neutral form; or
- (x) the bioavailability of the composition is at least 10 fold that of a neutral form.

* * * * *