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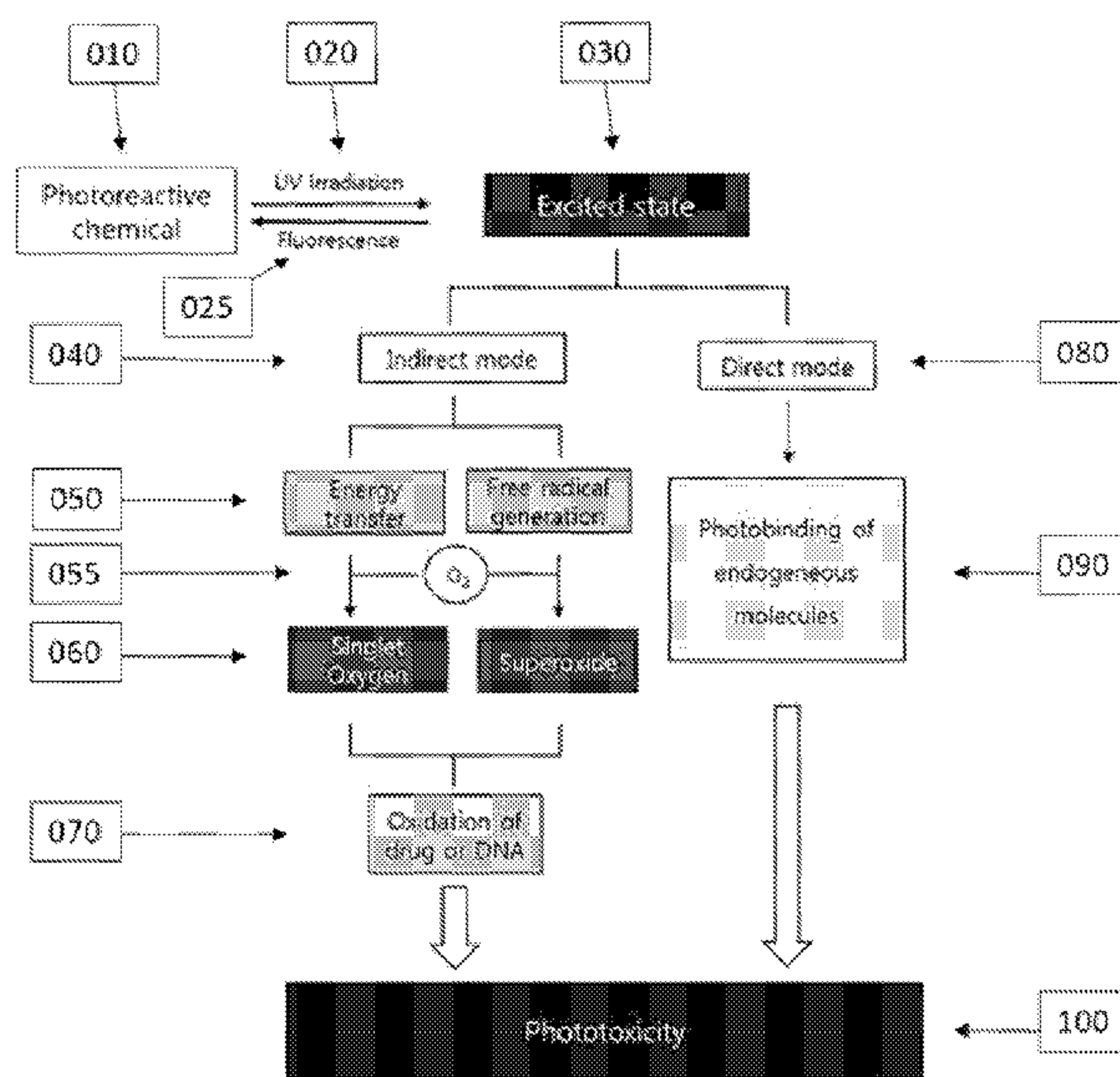


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: Provided herein are methods treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye with a pharmaceutical composition comprising selenium disulfide (SeS₂) and instructing the treated individual to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration in order to reduce the adverse effect of the composition.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPOSITION AND SENSITIVITY

CROSS REFERENCE

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 62/959,738 filed January 10, 2020, which application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Selenium sulfide (SeS_2) is indicated for the treatment of dermatological condition such as seborrheic dermatitis, tinea versicolor and dandruff. It is typically used as shampoo, foam or lotion at commercially available concentrations of 1% and 2.5% and is applied for several minutes, then rinsed off. The use of SeS_2 can be associated with known side effects that are listed in the drug insert and which may include irritation, burning, and on rare occasion, loss and discoloration of hair. Contact of a significant amount of preparations containing high-concentration selenium sulfide with mucous membranes of the eye may cause irritation (e.g., stinging) and prolonged contact (e.g., overnight application) of preparations containing SeS_2 with the skin may cause local irritation.

[0003] Adverse events reported following topical ocular use of selenium sulfide containing products include: superficial punctate keratitis and conjunctivitis which resolved upon cessation of treatment. When SeS_2 is applied topically for the treatment of tinea versicolor, skin irritation may occur in the genital areas and/or folds of the skin. SeS_2 lotions can also cause rebound oiliness of the scalp. *AHFS Drug Information* 2010.

[0004] Discoloration of various shades of natural and dyed hair has occurred following topical application of SeS_2 lotion. Hair discoloration is uncommon and is usually associated with poor or no rinsing following shampooing with the SeS_2 lotion. The manufacturers state that hair discoloration can be minimized by careful rinsing of the hair after treatment with the drug. Shampooing with a 2.5% lotion of the drug has also reportedly caused diffuse hair loss, which resolved 1-2 weeks following discontinuance of the drug.

[0005] SeS_2 lotion has been reported to cause systemic toxicity following topical application to damaged skin. Following long-term topical use of the lotion in a woman with an open lesion on her scalp, systemic signs and symptoms of toxicity including tremors, severe perspiration, garlicky breath, pain in the lower abdomen, weakness, lethargy, loss of appetite, and occasional vomiting occurred. Signs and symptoms of toxicity resolved within 10 days after discontinuing the drug. Selenium may be toxic when taken by mouth in high doses ($> 400 \mu\text{g}$ per day) or for long durations. Acute selenium poisoning is potentially lethal due to cardiocirculatory failure and/or pulmonary

edema. Gastrointestinal effects are generally the first symptoms seen with acute selenium poisoning. Acute effects may include: vomiting, hypersalivation, diarrhea, abdominal pain, a burning sensation in the nostrils and/or oral mucosa, chemical burns of the alimentary tract and a garlic-like odor on the breath. Poisoning from long-term use is similar to arsenic poisoning, with symptoms including hair loss, white horizontal streaking on fingernails, nail inflammation, fatigue, irritability, nausea, vomiting, garlic breath odor, and a metallic taste. Selenium can also cause muscle tenderness, tremor, lightheadedness, facial flushing, blood clotting problems, liver and kidney problems, and other side effects. Acute systemic effects of selenium are not expected in the target patient population with the proposed dosing regimen.

[0006] Non-specific allergic reactions, including rash and urticaria, have been reported rarely. Selenium compounds have UV protective effects. Specifically, topical selenium compounds increase the minimum dose of UV radiation required to cause skin reddening and protect against skin damage caused by UVB exposure (radiation with a wavelength of about 290 nm to about 320 nm). In some instances, this is because intracellularly selenium's major function is upregulation of the enzyme glutathione peroxidase (GPX) as an antioxidant.

[0007] In the 1950s and early 1960s, several investigators attempted to use ophthalmic preparation of SeS₂ to treat seborrheic blepharitis, typically associated with scaling at the eyelid margin and which affects many of those patients suffering from seborrheic dermatitis. These clinicians treated hundreds of patients over a course of time ranging between 1 month and 1 year using different methods including in-office application, home application, daily application, or application on alternating days.

[0008] Cohen and others using ophthalmic preparation of SeS₂ in patients first investigated the ophthalmic preparation in animals in order to determine what would be a safe concentration for the use in humans; they concluded that 0.5% is safe. In the reports describing their experience, most investigators concluded that the SeS₂ 0.5% was effective in treating seborrheic blepharitis and reported side effects primarily focusing on keratitis. Keratitis is an inflammatory response in the cornea typically causing significant pain and damage to the superficial epithelial cells which can be identified using corneal fluorescein staining.

[0009] Different means of application were described by the investigators including from careful application in the office with rinsing of excess material as well as at-home application with complete rinsing after a short period. It was clearly stated that careful application and rinsing were important to avoid harmful effects. It was further understood that patients who developed severe reactions were improperly applying the treatment to the eye or failed to observe thorough rinsing procedures.

[0010] Lavyel 1960, described the use of Selsunef[®] ointment, a 0.5% SeS₂ ointment produced by Abbott. Selsunef[®] was used in the clinic in 80 subjects, where gentle and controlled application was performed by a physician who also removed the ointment after 30 min by a swab of cotton wool. Great care was always taken not to introduce any of the ointment into the conjunctival sac. In one case, where the patient administered Selsunef[®] to himself, contrary to medical advice, a rather severe keratitis promptly developed.

SUMMARY

[0011] Another ophthalmic condition related to blepharitis, meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD), is a common disease, in which a patient's meibomian glands produce insufficient meibum that would otherwise prevent dryness of the eye. Meibum is an oily substance comprised largely of lipids that helps maintain the eye's tear film by preventing evaporation or pooling. In MGD, obstruction of the meibomian glands prevents the secretion of meibum, therefore causing dry eyes, pain, and blepharitis in many patients. In order to alleviate the obstruction of the meibomian glands and restore lipid production (e.g., meibum production), ophthalmic preparations of SeS₂ may be applied to the eyelid, eyelid margin, ocular surface, or surrounding tissues. Described herein are the methods of use for an ophthalmic preparation containing SeS₂, particularly wherein side effects, such as ocular keratitis are reduced or eliminated. In some instances, administration can be administered by a patient at home (e.g., chronically) (e.g., on a daily basis or less frequently, if appropriate) on the eyelid or over the eyelid margin.

[0012] Adverse effects (e.g., pain, local irritation, inflammation, redness, keratosis, etc.) have been identified in applications of SeS₂ in or around the eye, particularly when high concentrations of SeS₂ are utilized. In certain instances, administration of therapeutically effective concentrations of SeS₂ (e.g., to the eyelid margin) have been found to minimize adverse effects, while also providing therapeutic benefit. It has further been found that reducing exposure to light (e.g., UV light) following administration of the selenium disulfide compositions further reduces the incidents of side effects in ophthalmic applications (e.g., in methods involving administration to the lid margin of an individual).

[0013] In certain embodiments provided herein are methods of treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye in an individual in need thereof. In some embodiments, the method comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to an ocular surface, surrounding ocular tissues, eyelid, eyelid margin, or a combination thereof of the individual. In certain embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS₂) to the individual, such as to the eyelid margin of the

individual in need thereof. In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed to limit or avoid (e.g., via oral communication and/or written instruction) exposure to light (e.g., at least to the location to which the composition was administered, to the eye or eyes, or the like) following administration.

[0014] In some embodiments, limiting or avoiding exposure to light following administration of the composition reduces (e.g., the incidences of and/or rate of) keratitis (e.g., relative to administration that does not limit or avoid exposure to light), such as in or around the eye. In some instances, the keratitis is associated with photosensitivity. In some embodiments, exposure to light is limited or avoided for any suitable time, such as for at least 30 minutes. In some embodiments, exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 60 minutes. In some embodiments, exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 2 hours. In some instances, increased concentrations and/or amounts of selenium disulfide in the composition result in increased rates of and/or incidences of keratitis or other adverse effect. As such, in certain embodiments, light is avoided for longer periods of time than when compositions with lower concentrations and/or amounts of active are administered.

[0015] In some embodiments, the composition is administered to the lid margin of the individual. In certain embodiments, administration of the composition to the ophthalmic surface is avoided. In some embodiments, while light may be avoided following administration, the composition is administered under good-light conditions, such as to avoid unwanted administration of the composition to the surface of the eye.

[0016] In some embodiments, for a period of time following administration of the composition, the site to which the composition was administered is generally maintained or the individual is instructed to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions. In some embodiments, the low-light conditions are about 100 lux or less, about 50 lux or less, or about 25 lux or less.

[0017] In some embodiments, for a period of time following administration of the composition, the site to which the composition was administered is generally not exposed to or the individual is instructed to limit or avoid exposure of the site to which the composition was administered to high-light conditions. In some embodiments, the high-light conditions are about 100 lux or more, about 500 lux or more, or about 1,000 lux or more.

[0018] In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by administering or being instructed to administer the composition at a specific time of day. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is about later than about hour before dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is

after dusk (nighttime). In some embodiments, the specific time of day is before (e.g., within an hour, half-hour, or the like of) bedtime.

[0019] In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure (e.g., of the location to which the composition was administered, to the eye or eyes, or the like) to light following administration by at least partially obstructing or being instructed to obstruct (e.g., direct) some or all light (e.g., sunlight) to the site to which the composition was administered during and/or following administration. In some embodiments, obstruction of light is achieved by wearing headwear and/or eyewear that at least partially obstructs light. In some embodiments, the headwear is a hat. In some embodiments, the eyewear is sunglasses or goggles.

[0020] In some embodiments, the individual self-administers the composition.

[0021] In some embodiments, limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to at least some wavelengths of light. In some embodiments, limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light. In some embodiments, limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to sunlight. In some embodiments, the individual is instructed to remain indoors. In some embodiments, the individual avoids is instructed to avoid sunlight or ultraviolet (UV) light (e.g., at least where the composition is administered).

[0022] In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD), blepharitis, seborrheic blepharitis, Demodex infestation, dry eye syndrome, hyperkeratosis, dermatitis, keratitis, contact lens discomfort, lid wiper epitheliopathy (LWE), Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca, Sjogren's Syndrome, or ocular rosacea. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is Blepharitis or Seborrheic Blepharitis.

[0023] In some embodiments, the composition comprises SeS_2 in a therapeutically effective concentration. In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective concentration is about 0.1 wt. % to about 10 wt. % (e.g., about 0.1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %, or about 0.5 wt. % to about 1 wt. %). In some embodiments, the composition is administered in a volume of less than 25 μL . In some embodiments, the composition is administered in a volume of about 1 μL to about 20 μL (e.g., about 2 μL to about 15 μL , or about 3 μL to about 10 μL).

[0024] In some embodiments, the composition or formulation is a semi-solid (e.g., gels, cream, paste), strip, emulsion, suspension, foam, lotion, spray, patch, implant (e.g., slow release, biodegradable, semi-degradable, or non-degradable), lipid base systems (e.g., solid lipid nano/micro particles, liposomes, exosome, micelles, micro/nano emulsions, cubosomes, cochleates, niosomes, lipospheres), silica based system (e.g., mesoporous), polymer based system, nano and/or micro-spheres, nano- and/or micro-capsules, nano- and/or micro-particles, or the like.

In some embodiments, the semi-solid is an ointment. In some embodiments, (i) the composition is administered in a sufficiently low volume, and (ii) following administration, exposure to light of the site to which the composition was administered is sufficiently low, such that keratitis (e.g., of an ocular surface of the individual) is reduced or avoided. In some embodiments, lower concentration can support more light exposure with minimal risk of phototoxicity. In some embodiments, the amount of light exposure tolerated and duration to avoid light exposure is correlated to the dose and concentration of SeS₂ administered.

[0025] Certain embodiments provided herein are methods for treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye in an individual in need thereof, such process comprising protecting an ocular surface of the individual with a barrier. In specific embodiments, the process further comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface of the individual. In specific embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS₂). In some embodiments, protecting of the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering an ointment or hyaluronic acid (HA) to the ocular surface (e.g., thereby forming the barrier by interacting hyaluronic acid (HA) with mucin on the ocular surface). In some embodiments, the hyaluronic acid (HA) has a molecular weight of at least 900 kDa. In some embodiments, the barrier is a contact lens.

[0026] In some embodiments, the protecting the ocular surface comprises administering an additive molecule to the ocular surface (e.g., prior to administration of a pharmaceutical composition and/or concurrently therewith), the additive molecule comprising a molecule configured to capture a free radical or photosensitized SeS₂. In some embodiments, the free radical is a reactive oxygen species (ROS). In some embodiments, the additive comprises a phenolic compound, vitamin E, vitamin C, carotenes, ferritin, ceruloplasmin, selenium, reduced glutathione (GSH), manganese, ubiquinone, zinc, flavonoids, coenzyme Q, melatonin, bilirubin, taurine, or cysteine.

[0027] In some embodiments, the barrier prevents the SeS₂ from contacting the ocular surface.

[0028] In some embodiments, administering a therapeutically effective amount of pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface, surrounding ocular tissues, or a combination thereof of the individual comprises applying the pharmaceutical composition with a finger. The finger can be a finger of the individual.

[0029] While selenium containing shampoos have broad commercial use, adverse effects are not or are rarely observed. It is surprising that in ophthalmic applications, such as described herein, that adverse effects, such as photosensitivity, are prevalent. In some instances, such prevalence in adverse effects results from increased duration of exposure (e.g., short for shampoo), different

exposure location (e.g., topical/scalp vs. eye), different formulation (e.g., shampoo vs. the formulations described herein), or a combination of such differences. In specific embodiments, provided herein are compositions and methods of administering compositions, wherein the composition is not a shampoo.

[0030] Additional aspects and advantages of the present disclosure will become readily apparent to those skilled in this art from the following detailed description, such that only illustrative embodiments of the present disclosure are shown and described. As will be realized, the present disclosure is capable of other and different embodiments, and its several details are capable of modifications in various obvious respects, all without departing from the disclosure. Accordingly, the drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature, and not as restrictive.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0031] The novel features of the invention are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. A better understanding of the features and advantages of the present invention will be obtained by reference to the following detailed description that sets forth illustrative embodiments, in which the principles of the invention are utilized, and the accompanying drawings (also “Figure” and “FIG.” herein), of which:

[0032] **FIG. 1** illustrates a flowchart depicting mechanisms by which light may interact with a photosensitive chemical to produce phototoxicity in an individual in contact with said photosensitive chemical.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Definitions

[0033] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular cases only and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the singular forms “a”, “an” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Furthermore, to the extent that the terms “including”, “includes”, “having”, “has”, “with”, or variants thereof are used in either the detailed description and/or the claims, such terms are intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising.”

[0034] The term “about” or “approximately” means within an acceptable error range for the particular value as determined by one of ordinary skill in the art, which will depend in part on how the value is measured or determined, e.g., the limitations of the measurement system. For example, “about” can mean within 1 or more than 1 standard deviation, per the practice in the given value.

Where particular values are described in the application and claims, unless otherwise stated the term “about” should be assumed to mean an acceptable error range for the particular value.

[0035] The terms “individual,” “patient,” or “subject” are used interchangeably. None of the terms require or are limited to situation characterized by the supervision (e.g. constant or intermittent) of a health care worker (e.g. a doctor, a registered nurse, a nurse practitioner, a physician’s assistant, an orderly, or a hospice worker).

[0036] As used herein, the term “comprise” or variations thereof such as “comprises” or “comprising” are to be read to indicate the inclusion of any recited feature but not the exclusion of any other features. Thus, as used herein, the term “comprising” is inclusive and does not exclude additional, unrecited features. In some embodiments of any of the compositions and methods provided herein, “comprising” may be replaced with “consisting essentially of” or “consisting of.” The phrase “consisting essentially of” is used herein to require the specified feature(s) as well as those which do not materially affect the character or function of the claimed disclosure. As used herein, the term “consisting” is used to indicate the presence of the recited feature alone.

[0037] Provided in certain embodiments herein are methods for treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye in an individual with a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition. In specific embodiments, the composition comprises selenium disulfide (SeS_2). In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration. As discussed herein, in some instances, exposure of the treated area to light, especially sunlight or other ultraviolet light sources, in order to prevent, reduce, or limit the risk of, the rate of, and/or incidences of a side effect, such as keratitis. In some instances, prevention, reduction or limitation of the side effect of SeS_2 is greater and/or more likely when the SeS_2 composition has high concentration of SeS_2 and/or the SeS_2 composition is provided in a high dose.

[0038] In certain embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is a disease or condition treated or treatable by a composition, such as described herein. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder may be one or more conditions selected from the group comprising meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD), blepharitis, seborrheic blepharitis, Demodex infestation, dry eye syndrome, hyperkeratosis, dermatitis, keratitis, contact lens discomfort, lid wiper epitheliopathy (LWE), Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca, Sjogren's Syndrome, or ocular rosacea. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD). In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is blepharitis. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is seborrheic blepharitis. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is blepharitis associated with MGD. In

some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is dry eye syndrome. In some embodiments, the disease or disorder in or around the eye is a condition characterized by insufficient secretion of lipids.

[0039] In certain embodiments, light avoided according to any method provided herein is a light that may result in phototoxicity and/or other adverse effect when combined with a therapeutic administration of a composition provided herein in or around the eye. In specific embodiments, all wavelength of light are partially or completely blocked. In other embodiments, select wavelengths of light are partially or completely blocked. In some embodiments, the light includes infrared light, visible light, ultraviolet light, certain wavelengths thereof, and/or combination thereof. In specific embodiments, light comprises visible and/or ultraviolet light. In some embodiments, the light comprises visible light. In some embodiments, the light comprises ultraviolet light. In some embodiment, the ultraviolet light comprises both UVA and UVB light. In some embodiments, light comprises UVA or UVB light. In some embodiments, light is from the sun (sunlight). In some embodiments, light is not sunlight.

[0040] In certain embodiments, methods provided herein provide for therapies involving reduced (e.g., incidence or rates) or eliminated photosensitive reaction (e.g., adverse effects resulting from a combination of light and therapeutic administration of a composition provided herein) or photosensitivity (which descriptions are used interchangeably herein). In some instances, such adverse effects refer to an adverse physiological response, such as, by way of non-limiting example, keratitis, inflammation, pain, irritation, flaking, redness, discoloration, or any combination thereof. In some instances, such adverse effects refer to a feeling of grittiness, a feeling of a foreign body in the eye of an individual, blurry vision, redness, tired eyes, symptoms of dry eye disorder, stinging, watery eyes, irritation, lid abnormalities, corneal adrasion, keratitis, photophobia, staining, or any combination thereof. A photoreactive chemical can cause photosensitivity in an individual in contact with said photoreactive chemical through a direct or indirect mechanism as described in FIG. 1. Photosensitivity comprises phototoxicity and photoallergic effects.

[0041] **FIG. 1** illustrates a non-limiting schematic of an exemplary mechanism by which a photoreactive chemical **010** may induce phototoxicity **100** in an individual are illustrated. When ultraviolet (UV) radiation **020** or any other sufficiently energetic photon interacts with a photoreactive chemical **010**, said photoreactive chemical **010** is elevated to an excited state **030**, such that energy from the photon is imparted upon the photoreactive chemical **010**. The excited state **030** species can expel energy in the form of fluorescence **025** or can impart energy upon a second molecule as further described by the indirect mode **040** or direct mode **080**.

[0042] The indirect mode of phototoxicity **040** is facilitated by oxygen **055**, such that the excited state **030** species can impart energy upon oxygen **055** via energy transfer or free radical generation **050**. Both energy transfer and free radical generation **050** to oxygen **055** generates what is called a reactive oxygen species (ROS), illustrated in **FIG. 1** by two common species, singlet oxygen and superoxide **060**. An ROS such as **060** is highly reactive and can cause oxidation of a variety of molecules which may include a drug or DNA **070** among others. Following oxidation, the newly transformed molecule **070** can exert physiological effects in an individual in contact with the photoreactive chemical **010**. In specific embodiments, the photoreactive chemical **010** enhances the inherently damaging (e.g., oxidizing) properties of UV radiation **020** by catalyzing the formation of ROS **060** at a location in contact with the photoreactive chemical **010**. Thus, preventing UV radiation or other sufficiently energetic photons from interacting with a photoreactive chemical **010** may provide protection from phototoxicity **100** and associated photosensitivity.

[0043] The direct mode of phototoxicity **080** is independent of oxygen. In the direct mode **080**, the excited state **030** species described herein can interact with (e.g., photobinding of) endogenous molecules **090** including but not limited to small molecules, peptides, proteins, and nucleic acids. Photobinding of endogenous molecules **090** can directly exert phototoxicity **100** in a manner similar to that previously described.

[0044] In some embodiments, to avoid the possibility of SeS₂ interacting with light, patients are instructed to avoid exposure of their ocular surface and surrounding tissues to light following application. The time during which to avoid light maybe determined based on the dose and concentration applied. Means for avoiding light exposure may comprise the following: (1) bedtime application after which the subject stays in bed with no light exposure, (2) daytime application such that the individual stays in a dim or dark environment following treatment, and (3) wearing protective headwear or eyewear to shield the treated area from light (e.g., dark sunglasses or UV protective sunglasses).

[0045] In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises SeS₂ in a therapeutically effective concentration. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises SeS₂ in less than a therapeutically effective concentration. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises SeS₂ in a homeopathic concentration. In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises SeS₂ in greater than a therapeutically effective concentration.

[0046] In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective concentration is about 0.1 wt. % to about 2.5 wt. % (e.g., about 0.5 wt. % to about 1 wt. %). In some embodiments, the therapeutically

effective concentration comprises at least about 0.01 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. %, about 0.15 wt. %, about 0.2 wt. %, about 0.25 wt. %, about 0.3 wt. %, about 0.35 wt. %, about 0.4 wt. %, about 0.45 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. %, about 0.55 wt. %, about 0.6 wt. %, about 0.65 wt. %, about 0.7 wt. %, about 0.75 wt. %, about 0.8 wt. %, about 0.85 wt. %, about 0.9 wt. %, about 0.95 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. %, about 1.25 wt. %, about 1.5 wt. %, about 1.75 wt. %, about 2.0 wt. %, about 2.5 wt. %, about 3.0 wt. %, about 4.0 wt. %, about 4.5 wt. %, about 5.0 wt. %, about 5.5 wt. %, about 6.0 wt. %, about 6.5 wt. %, about 7.0 wt. %, about 7.5 wt. %, about 8.0 wt. %, about 8.5 wt. %, about 9.0 wt. %, about 9.5 wt. %, about 10.0 wt. %, about 10.5 wt. %, about 11.0 wt. %, about 11.5 wt. %, about 12.0 wt. %, about 15.0 wt. % or more of selenium disulfide (SeS₂). In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective concentration comprises at most about 11.0 wt. %, about 10.0 wt. %, about 9.0 wt. %, about 8.0 wt. %, about 7.0 wt. %, about 6.0 wt. %, about 5.0 wt. %, about 4.0 wt. %, about 3.0 wt. %, about 2.5 wt. %, about 2.0 wt. %, about 1.75 wt. %, about 1.5 wt. %, about 1.25 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. %, about 0.95 wt. %, about 0.9 wt. %, about 0.85 wt. %, about 0.8 wt. %, about 0.75 wt. %, about 0.70 wt. %, about 0.65 wt. %, about 0.60 wt. %, about 0.55 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. %, about 0.45 wt. %, about 0.4 wt. %, about 0.35 wt. %, about 0.3 wt. %, about 0.25 wt. %, or less. In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective concentration comprises about 0.01 wt. % to about 15.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 10.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 9.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 8.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 7.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 6.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 5.0 wt. %, 0.01 wt. % to about 4.0 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 3.0 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 2.0 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 1.5 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 1.0 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 0.5 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 0.1 wt. %, about 0.01 wt. % to about 0.05 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 4.0 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 3.0 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 2.0 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 1.5 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 1.0 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 0.5 wt. %, about 0.05 wt. % to about 0.1 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 4.0 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 3.0 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 2.0 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 1.5 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 1.0 wt. %, about 0.1 wt. % to about 0.5 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. % to about 4.0 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. % to about 3.0 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. % to about 2.0 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. % to about 1.5 wt. %, about 0.5 wt. % to about 1.0 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. % to about 4.0 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. % to about 3.0 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. % to about 2.5 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. % to about 2.0 wt. %, about 1.0 wt. % to about 1.5 wt. %, or any combination thereof. In some instances, administration or use of lower concentrations of SeS₂ (e.g., 0.5 wt. %) results in fewer adverse effects. In some instances, administration or use of lower concentrations of SeS₂ (e.g., 0.5 wt. %) results in fewer adverse effects when light is avoided after administration, such as administration in the evening or at night.

[0047] In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition is administered in a volume of less than 25 μL . In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition is administered in a volume of about 1 μL to about 20 μL (e.g., about 2 μL to about 15 μL , or about 3 μL to about 10 μL). In some embodiments, the volume of the pharmaceutical composition or the volume of pharmaceutical composition administered using a method provided herein (e.g. using a swab or a finger) is at most about 30 μL , at most about 25 μL , at most about 20 μL , at most about 15 μL , at most about 10 μL , or at most about 5 μL . In some embodiments, the volume is at least about 0.01 microliters (μL), at least about 0.05 μL , at least about 0.1 μL , at least about 0.5 μL , at least about 1 μL , at least about 5 μL , at least about 10 μL , at least about 15 μL , at least about 20 μL , or more. In some embodiments, the volume is from about 0.01 μL to about 50 μL , about 0.1 μL to about 30 μL , about 0.5 μL to 25 μL , about 1 μL to 25 μL , about 10 μL to 25 μL , or about 2.5 μL to about 10 μL .

[0048] In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective amount of SeS_2 is at least about 0.1 milligrams (mg), at least about 0.2 mg, at least about 0.3 mg, at least about 0.5 mg, at least about 1 mg, at least about 2 mg, at least about 2.5 mg, or the like. In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS_2) is about 25 mg or less, about 15 mg or less, about 10 mg or less, 7.5 mg or less, about 5 mg or less. In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective amount of SeS_2 is about 0.5 mg, about 1 mg, about 2 mg, about 3 mg, about 4 mg, about 5 mg, about 6 mg, about 8 mg, about 10 mg, or the like. In some embodiments, the therapeutically effective amount of SeS_2 is about 4 mg.

[0049] In some embodiments, the composition is a semi-solid. In some embodiments, the composition is an ointment. In some embodiments the composition is applied using a finger. In some embodiments the composition is applied using a swab.

[0050] In some embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition is applied to the ocular surface, surrounding ocular tissues, eyelid, eyelid margin, lid wiper, meibomian gland, mucocutaneous margin, eyelashes, lash line, lash follicle, tarsal glands, palpebral border, medial angle, lacrimal papilla and punctum, dermal or epidermal tissue within 1 cm of the ocular surface, dermal or epidermal tissue within 2 cm of the ocular surface, or any combination thereof.

[0051] In some instances, the composition is self-administered. The composition can be administered via a swab or finger. Alternatively and/or additionally, the composition is administered to the individual by a medical practitioners (e.g., a doctor, a nurse, a skilled medical technician, etc.). Alternatively and/or additionally, the composition is administered to the individual by another individual or by a machine. In some embodiments, finger administration is

preferred. In some instances, administration of a composition provided herein with a finger, rather than with, e.g., a swab, results in improved therapeutic efficacy.

[0052] In some instances, the composition is administered under good-light condition (e.g., under sunlight, under a light having at least 50 lux or more, at least 100 lux or more, about 500 lux or more, or about 1,000 lux or more. In some instances, limiting or avoiding exposure to light following administration of the composition reduces keratitis associated with photosensitivity, at least 10%, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 80%, at least 90%, compared to or relative to administration that does not limit or avoid exposure to light (e.g., either same individual with or without light exposure, or different individuals having similar conditions with or without light exposure, etc.).

[0053] The duration of limiting or avoiding exposure to light may vary depending on the condition of the individual, dose of the composition, concentration of the SeS₂ in the composition, previous treatment history of the individual, etc. In some instances, the exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 30 minutes, at least 60 minutes, at least 90 minutes, at least 120 minutes, at least 3 hours, at least 6 hours, etc.

[0054] The amount of light that is permitted or prevented (e.g., limited, avoided, or instructed to do so, etc.) after the administration of the composition may also vary depending on the condition of the individual, dose of the composition, concentration of the SeS₂ in the composition, previous treatment history of the individual, etc. In some instances, an individual is limited, avoided, or instructed to do limit or avoid any high lights (e.g., about 100 lux or more, about 500 lux or more, or about 1,000 lux or more.). In some instances, an individual is allowed to be exposed or the site to which the composition was administered is exposed or maintained at low-light conditions (e.g., about 100 lux or less, about 50 lux or less, or about 25 lux or less, etc.). In some embodiments, for a period of time following administration of the compound, the site to which the composition was administered is generally maintained or the individual is instructed to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions as described herein. In some embodiments, the individual maintains the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions. In some embodiments, the individual reads printed instructions to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions. In some embodiments, the individual is provided printed instructions to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions. In some embodiments, the individual is provided auditory instructions to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions. In some embodiments, the individual is provided non-auditory instructions to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions.

[0055] In some embodiments, low-light conditions are characterized by the physiological response in an observer of said light conditions. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are characterized in relation to wavelength, lux (lumens/m²), or the combination thereof. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by night. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by obstruction of the sun. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by being indoors. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by naturally occurring conditions (e.g., overcast weather). In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by exclusion of specific wavelengths or ranges of wavelengths of light. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by a darkroom. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are provided by use of a safelight

[0056] In some embodiments, low-light conditions are at most about 1000 lux, about 250 lux, about 100 lux, about 50 lux, about 25 lux, about 10 lux, about 1 lux, about 0.1 lux, about 0.01 lux, about 0.001 lux or less. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are at least about 0.001 lux, about 0.01 lux, about 0.1 lux, about 1 lux, about 10 lux, about 25 lux, about 50 lux, about 100 lux, about 250 lux, about 1000 lux, or more. In some embodiments, low-light conditions are between about 0.001 to about 1000 lux, about 0.001 to about 250 lux, about 0.001 to about 100 lux, about 0.01 to about 1000 lux, about 0.01 to about 250 lux, about 0.01 to about 100 lux, about 0.1 to about 1000 lux, about 0.1 to about 250 lux, about 0.1 to about 100 lux, about 1 to about 1000 lux, about 1 to about 200 lux, about 1 to about 100 lux, about 10 to about 1000 lux, about 10 to about 200 lux, about 10 to about 100 lux, about 25 to about 1000 lux, about 25 to about 250 lux, about 25 to about 100 lux, about 50 to about 1000 lux, about 50 to about 250 lux, or about 50 to about 100 lux.

[0057] In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by at least partially obstructing or being instructed to obstruct (e.g., direct or indirect) some or all light from one or more, or any light sources (e.g., sunlight) to the site to which the composition was administered during and/or following administration. In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by at least partially obstructing or being instructed to obstruct some or all light to the site to which the composition was administered as well as the surrounding tissues during and/or following administration.

[0058] In some embodiments, the individual directs or is instructed to direct light following administration and limiting/avoiding lights after administration by at least partially directing or being instructed to direct some or all light (e.g., sunlight) to the site to which the composition was administered.

[0059] In some embodiments, the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by administering or being instructed to administer the composition at a specific time of day. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is later than about an hour before dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is later than about two hours before dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is later than about dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is later than about an hour after dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is later than about two hours after dusk. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is after dusk (nighttime). In some embodiments, the specific time of day is more than about an hour before bedtime. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is less than about an hour before bedtime. In some embodiments, the specific time of day is less than about 30 minutes before bedtime. In some embodiments, administration is performed at night. In specific embodiments, night time administration is a time after 4:00 PM, after 5:00 PM, after 6:00 PM, or the like.

[0060] In some embodiments, obstruction of light is achieved by wearing headwear and/or eyewear that at least partially obstructs light. In some embodiments, obstruction of light is achieved by wearing a headwear and/or an eyewear that entirely obstructs light. In some embodiments, obstruction of light is achieved by wearing a headwear and/or an eyewear that at least partially obstructs specific wavelengths of light. In some embodiments, the light obstructed by a headwear and/or an eyewear is not visible light. In some embodiments, the light obstructed by a headwear and/or an eyewear comprises both visible light as well as other forms of radiation. In some embodiments, obstruction of light is achieved by wearing a headwear and/or an eyewear that at least partially obstructs ultraviolet radiation, visible light, infrared radiation, x-rays, and/or gamma rays.

[0061] In some embodiments, the headwear is a hat. In some embodiments, the headwear is a hat with a bill or a brim. In some embodiments, the headwear is a hat without a bill or a brim.

[0062] In some embodiments, the eyewear is sunglasses or goggles. In some embodiments, the eyewear is a contact lens. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises one or more lens. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises one or more polarized lens. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises one or more reflective lens. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises one or more shaded lens. In some embodiments, the eyewear is blindfold. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises natural or synthetic fibers or a combination thereof. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises a reflective surface. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises a lens or mirror. In some embodiments, the eyewear comprises fabric, a polymer, a plastic, a metal, a non-metal, plant material, plant-derived material, synthetic material, or any combination thereof.

[0063] In some embodiments, reduced or avoidance of keratitis is achieved by combining two conditions: i) administering the composition in a sufficiently low volume (even with high concentration), and ii) following administration, exposure to light of the site to which the composition was administered is sufficiently low. In some instances, a lower concentration of SeS₂ can support more light exposure with minimal or reduced risk of phototoxicity. In some embodiments, the amount of light exposure tolerated and duration to avoid light exposure is at least partially correlated to the dose and/or concentration of SeS₂ composition administered.

[0064] In some embodiments, the adverse effect of SeS₂ interacting with light is prevented or reduced by protecting the ocular surface of an individual with a barrier. In specific embodiments, the process further comprises administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface of the individual. In specific embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS₂). In some embodiments, the ocular surface is protected with a barrier prior to administering the pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface. Alternatively and/or additionally, the ocular surface is protected with a barrier concurrently with the process of administering the pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface. The barrier can be any physical or chemical barrier that is pre-formed before applying to the ocular surface. Alternatively and/or additionally, the barrier is formed on the ocular surface after being applied to the ocular surface.

[0065] In some instances, protecting of the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering an ointment, a polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) microemulsion, other micro or nano-emulsions of polymers, or liquid crystal form of polymers that can act as a barrier. Alternatively and/or additionally, protecting of the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering lipid or sugar based compound that can cover ocular surface or cornea. For example, such lipid or sugar based compound includes cross linked dextran or dense liposome. Alternatively and/or additionally, protecting of the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering a hyaluronic acid (HA), or any suitable HA-containing compound, which interacts with mucin on the ocular surface and/or the surrounding ocular tissues of the individual and forms a barrier. Preferably, such formed barrier prevents the photosensitized SeS₂ from contacting the ocular surface of an individual. While any suitable hyaluronic acid, hyaluronic acid polymer, or a HA-containing compound suitable to apply to the ocular surface are contemplated, preferred hyaluronic acid or hyaluronic acid polymer includes those with a molecular weight of at least 700 kDa, at least 800 kDa, at least 900 kDa, at least 1000 kDa, at least 1100 kDa, at least 1200 kDa, at least 1300 kDa, at least 1400 kDa, at least 1500 kDa, at least 2000 kDa, at least 2500 kDa, at least 3000 kDa,

or at least 3500 kDa, or between 700-3500 kDa, 700-3000 kDa, 700-2500 kDa, 700-2000 kDa, 700-1500 kDa, 700-1300 kDa, or 700-1200 kDa.

[0066] In some instances, the protecting the ocular surface comprises administering an additive molecule to the ocular surface as a barrier. The additive molecule is configured to, suitable for, or capable of, capture a free radical or photosensitized SeS₂, so that the captured free radical or photosensitized SeS₂ does not reach, does not directly contact, thereby the adverse effect on the ocular surface is reduced. In some embodiments, the additive molecule, when applied to the ocular surface, capture at least 10%, at least 20%, at least 30%, at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70% of the free radical or photosensitized SeS₂. In some instances, the additive molecule comprises one or more of a phenolic compound, vitamin E, vitamin C, carotenes, ferritin, ceruloplasmin, selenium, reduced glutathione (GSH), manganese, ubiquinone, zinc, flavonoids, coenzyme Q, melatonin, bilirubin, taurine, or cysteine. In some embodiments, the additive molecule is formulated with a suitable excipients (e.g., buffer, etc.) in any suitable form (e.g., gel, hydrogel, ointment, cream, lotion, foam, spray, patch, implant (e.g., slow release, biodegradable, semi-degradable, or non-degradable), lipid base systems (e.g., solid lipid nano/micro particles, liposomes, exosome, micelles, micro/nano emulsions, cubosomes, cochleates, niosomes, lipospheres), silica based system (e.g., mesoporous), polymer based system, nano and/or microspheres, nano- and/or micro-capsules, nano- and/or micro-particles, or the like, etc.) to be applied on the ocular surface of the individual before administering the pharmaceutical composition (e.g., SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition). Alternatively and/or additionally, the additive molecule is added to the SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition such that the additive molecule can be applied to the ocular surface concurrently with the SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition.

[0067] In some instances, the barrier is a contact lens or any other types of transparent or nontransparent layer that creates a physical barrier on the ocular surface to protect the ocular surface from the photosensitized SeS₂ or other reactive oxygen species (i.e., generated from the photoreaction of SeS₂). The size of the contact lens or any other types of transparent or nontransparent layer varies depending on the area of the protection. For example, the size of the contact lens or any other types of transparent or nontransparent layer is determined to cover at least 40%, at least 50%, at least 60%, at least 70%, at least 80%, at least 90% of the ocular surface of the individual.

[0068] Such processes of protecting the ocular surface of the individual from the photosensitized SeS₂ or other reactive oxygen species with a barrier enables the SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition to be administered under a good or high-light condition (e.g., under

sunlight, under a light having at least 50 lux or more, at least 100 lux or more, at least 500 lux or more, or at least 1,000 lux or more, etc.) by preventing or reducing the adverse effect of photosensitized SeS₂ or phototoxicity from other reactive oxygen species upon administration of the SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition. In addition, by preventing the access of the photosensitized SeS₂ or other reactive oxygen species to the ocular surface during administering the SeS₂-containing pharmaceutical composition, such administering step removes or at least reduces the need of further limitation, avoidance or instruction to limit or avoid exposure to light following the administration.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

[0069] *In vivo rabbit study of preparations comprising SeS₂.* In a preclinical study performed on rabbits, it is observed that a small dose of SeS₂ (about 4 mg) at a concentration of up to 2.5 wt. % is safe. This dose, provided in an ointment and applied over the eyelid margin, is well tolerated and does not produce keratitis in the individuals receiving treatment. Upon increasing the dose to about 20 mg, keratitis is observed in the test subjects. These findings are understood to indicate that keratitis and related side-effects of SeS₂ treatment may depend not only on the concentration of SeS₂, but also on the total dose.

Example 2

[0070] In a clinical study three different concentrations were used; 0.1 wt. %, (10 subjects) 0.5 wt. % (12 subjects) and 1 wt. % (26 subjects). Most applications were done bi-weekly while some patients moved to daily application based on prespecified protocol criteria. Of the subjects who participated in the study, four developed keratitis, keratitis related symptoms, or keratitis related symptoms. All four subjects were treated using the 1 wt. % concentration. In one instance, a patient was treated for a month and was improving according to multiple ophthalmic health metrics but developed keratitis after his 1-month visit to the office. During the 1-month visit, the patient applied the drug as part of the in-office assessment during the morning hours. About 7 hours later, the patient started to feel significant pain. Upon examination the next morning, the patient showed corneal staining in the form of a band at the interpalpebral fissure and was diagnosed with keratitis. The patient had no adverse events during the first month while applying the drug twice weekly (at home, before bedtime) and had a significant improvement in total ocular surface disease index (OSDI), visual analogue scale (VAS), and standard patient evaluation of eye dryness (SPEED). After resolution of the keratitis this patient continued dosing at bed time with no subsequent development of keratitis.

[0071] A surprising incidence of patients improving while applying the drug at home without any adverse effects, then developing keratitis several hours after applying it in the clinic was observed. This recurring pattern suggested a toxic reaction following in-office, daytime application of SeS₂. An additional three patients reported the initiation of pain between 6 and 20 hours after the application, indicating this indeed follows a pattern of toxic reaction. Two of the patients developed keratitis after the first application—a single application done during daytime in the office—which was done on the first day of the trial. The last subject developed keratitis after the in-office application done during day 14 of the study. This last subject, similar to the first patient, also applied the treatment at home on a bi-weekly basis without any adverse reaction.

[0072] The proposition that SeS₂ was reacting with light to cause a photosensitive reaction was informed by the following factors: (1) the consistent development of keratitis following an in-office, daytime application, (2) more than 400 bedtime applications of 1 wt. % SeS₂ being performed without a single occurrence of keratitis, and (3) the time course between a daytime application of 1 wt. % SeS₂ ointment and the development of symptoms of keratitis. Given that 0.1 wt. % and 0.5 wt. % in-office, daytime applications also occurred in 9 and 7 patients respectively with no development of keratitis, and given that keratitis developed in rabbits at the high dose of about 20 mg but not at low dose of about 4 mg, it is likely that this phenomenon is both dose- and concentration-related.

[0073] The duration of time the drug product can be visualized on the eye was also tested. It was concluded that after 5 hours, no drug product is visibly present.

[0074] SeS₂ (2.5 wt. %) can produce contact dermatitis, e.g., due to an irritant effect. As a treatment for tinea versicolor, Giordano once applied SeS₂ overnight (e.g., at night or before bedtime for overnight efficacy), not out of concern of sun exposure, but rather to allow its prolonged exposure to the skin. Robinson and Yaffe used SeS₂ cream (1 wt. %) for the same indication twice daily for 2 weeks. The 32 cases described by Robinson and Yaffe indicate that daytime exposure was not a concern, as it was recommended to take a shower only once every 3 days to remove the SeS₂ cream. None of the investigators encountered a single case of either contact dermatitis or photo-contact dermatitis, and there are no references to the potential phototoxic effect of SeS₂. In some instances, overnight application is important for lower concentrations of SeS₂, for example between about 0.1 wt.% and 2.5 wt.% (e.g., 0.5 wt.%).

[0075] In one instance, a patient applied SeS₂ shampoo for three consecutive nights as prescribed by a physician to treat asymptomatic, hypopigmented macules on the face, neck, and upper limbs. Five days after the third treatment, the patient developed circumscribed eczematous plaques on the light-exposed areas of the face, neck, and upper limbs. In some instances, dermatitis

induced by SeS₂ is likely to be photoallergic, as the dermatitis developed five days after the last application. The minimum time for the sensitizing processes to be complete is five days. Moreover, phototoxic and primary irritant reactions are seen when the concentration of the photoreactive chemical is high. Such phototoxic or irritant reactions are unlikely to occur after a time lag following discontinuation of any topical medication. The previously described eczematous plaques developed primarily in sun-exposed areas despite the patient applying the shampoo all over the body, which indicates that the reaction was not a primary irritant dermatitis. Exacerbations on sun exposure even after 3 weeks also point in favor of an allergic mechanism. Photosensitive dermatitis as a side effect of medication typically subsides in one to two weeks following withdrawal of the offending agent and sunlight. In some instances, the offending agent may persist in the dermis, or a protein or cell may be altered, resulting in persistence of photosensitivity.

[0076] The development of photosensitivity in response to a selenium composition (e.g., SeS₂) stands in contrast to the known skin protective effects of some selenium compounds, especially with respect to UVA (radiation with a wavelength of about 320 nm to about 400 nm) exposure. The previously observed UVA-protective effects which may be facilitated by selenium's capacity to promote the synthesis of glutathione, a key component of fibroblasts and keratinocytes. In some instances, the contrast between UV-protective effects and photosensitivity may derive from selenium solubility. Prior data showing the UV-protective effect of selenium compounds typically correspond to soluble selenium compounds. The protective effect of selenium compounds starts at low doses. In the ophthalmic treatments described herein, the active compound is non-soluble selenium disulfide with minimal concentrations of soluble selenium (<5 ppm). The phototoxicity effect observed in one of the ophthalmic studies described herein are observed at concentrations at least as low as about 0.5 wt.% and 1 wt. %.

[0077] In some instances, certain concentration levels of SeS₂ may tip the balance between protective and sensitizing effects. In certain instances, high levels of non-soluble selenium may lead to phototoxicity due to elevated levels of glutathione or other proteins, inducing oxidative imbalance and cellular toxicity. This cellular toxicity and oxidative imbalance may be further elevated by UVA exposure.

Example 3

[0078] An additional 7 subject received 1 wt. % selenium disulfide in a manner similar to that described in Example 2. An additional 2 or 3 additional cases of adverse effects. Of these subjects, 2 had keratitis following the 1st in-office application and another patient deteriorate following the 2nd in-office application although the subject kept on another dose or two at home before coming with pain to be examined (a typical scenario when keratitis evolves).

Example 4

[0079] *Human study of preparations comprising SeS₂.* One of three concentrations of SeS₂ (0.1 wt. %, 0.5 wt. %, and 1 wt. %) is applied to a human subject in order to determine safety and efficacy. The treatment, an ointment-based SeS₂ composition, is applied over the eyelid margin by the individual receiving treatment (i.e., self-administration). In most instances, the treatment is applied on a biweekly basis, however some patients move to daily application based on prespecified protocol criteria. Because the ointment-based composition is known to mix with tear fluid and cause blurry vision, individuals in this study are advised to apply the treatment prior to bed so as to avoid risks associated with reduced vision acuity. An additional component of the study requires individuals to apply the ointment in the presence of an ophthalmologist in order to demonstrate proper self-administration technique consistent with the designed study. The in-office applications are conducted at specific, pre-determined time points. In these instances, the treatment is not applied before bed but rather is performed during daylight hours.

[0080] Keratitis is not observed in any patients receiving treatment at either the 0.1 wt. % or the 0.5 wt. % concentration. However, four patients note symptoms of keratitis in the 1 wt. % concentration cohort. It should be noted that all four patients describing symptoms of keratitis do so following the prescribed in-office assessment whereas none of the 400 or more bedtime applications of treatment results in keratitis. Prior to the in-office assessment whereafter keratitis develops, at least one patient demonstrates improved health outcomes following one month of treatment as measured by total ocular surface disease index (OSDI), visual analogue scale (VAS), and standard patient evaluation of eye dryness (SPEED). However, within 7 hours of performing the in-office assessment, the patient describes significant pain near the treated area. Subsequent corneal staining with fluorescein indicates keratitis, observed in the form of a band at the interpalpebral fissure.

[0081] At least three other individuals show symptoms of keratitis following a pattern consistent with the first described individual. All four individuals report the initiation of pain between 6 and 20 hours of the in-office assessment, i.e., a 1 wt. % concentration of SeS₂ is applied. This pattern of occurrence suggests a correlation between the development of keratitis and both context in which treatment is administered as well as the concentration of treatment administered.

[0082] *Determination of time period that treatment is visibly present.* The duration of time during which the drug product is visibly present on or near the eye of an individual is assessed. Investigators conclude that drug product is no longer visibly present after 5 hours.

Example 5

[0083] An analysis of masked data in two ongoing studies using the same concentration of SeS₂ (i.e., 0.5%) at overlapping sites indicates a clear and unexpected tolerability advantage for dosing the drug product only at night. In a first study patients were instructed to dose in both the evening, between visits, and in the daytime during regular scheduled clinic visits as part of the study protocol. Study patients received a 2-week run-in on a placebo which was administered twice weekly for a period of two weeks. Upon meeting inclusion/exclusion criteria, the patients were randomized to be administered an SeS₂ ointment/semi-solid drug (i.e., 0.1%, 0.5%, or 1.0%) or a placebo for a dosing regimen comprising either a twice-week administration for three months or a once daily dosing for three months.

[0084] In a second study is almost identical to the first study, but all daytime visits were eliminated, the ointment/semi-solid SeS₂ (e.g., 0.5%) was administered twice weekly in the evening at bedtime for three months. There was a clear and significant reduction in ocular adverse events in the second (night time administration only) study relative to the first study (reduction of 75% in the incidence of adverse events). Adverse events comprise a feeling of grittiness, foreign body feeling, stinging, blurry vision, redness, tired eyes, water eyes, irritation, lid abnormalities, burning, corneal abrasion, photophobia, staining, or dry eye disorder (DED). Adverse events consist mainly of events associated with tolerability such as burning and stinging after application.

[0085] The rates of ocular adverse events (ocular AE) and more importantly discontinuations from adverse events (DC for AE, that are mostly related to ocular tolerability) appear to be reduced by at least 50% when allowing dosing only in the evening rather than the AM.

Example 6

[0086] In a study testing the efficacy of SeS₂ in meibomian gland disorder (MGD) patients, subjects were allowed to choose between their finger or a cotton wool applicator (e.g., swab) to apply the ointment over the lid margin

[0087] Of the 22 meibomian gland disorder (MGD) patients, 9 elected to use their finger while 13 used the applicator. The drug was applied twice a week and final evaluation was done at the 3 month time point in which the primary outcome of Meibomian Gland Score (MGS) was assessed. The average change from baseline in MGS in the 9 patients who use their finger was 10 (+/-8.2) vs. 2.3 (+/-4.4) in the 13 patients who used the applicator. This difference was statistically significant (p=0.03). Typically creams, cosmetics and ointments used on the lid margin are applied using an applicator and hence it was an unexpected finding that using a finger enhances the efficacy of the drug.

[0088] While preferred embodiments of the present invention have been shown and described herein, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that such embodiments are provided by way of

example only. It is not intended that the invention be limited by the specific examples provided within the specification. While the invention has been described with reference to the aforementioned specification, the descriptions and illustrations of the embodiments herein are not meant to be construed in a limiting sense. Numerous variations, changes, and substitutions will now occur to those skilled in the art without departing from the invention. Furthermore, it shall be understood that all aspects of the invention are not limited to the specific depictions, configurations or relative proportions set forth herein which depend upon a variety of conditions and variables. It should be understood that various alternatives to the embodiments of the invention described herein may be employed in practicing the invention. It is therefore contemplated that the invention shall also cover any such alternatives, modifications, variations or equivalents. It is intended that the following claims define the scope of the invention and that methods and structures within the scope of these claims and their equivalents be covered thereby.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising:

administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to an ocular surface, surrounding ocular tissues, or a combination thereof of the individual;

wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS₂); and

wherein the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein limiting or avoiding exposure to light following administration of the composition reduces keratitis associated with photosensitivity.
3. The method of any one of preceding claims, wherein exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 30 minutes.
4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 60 minutes.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein exposure to light is limited or avoided for at least 6 hours.
6. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is administered under good-light conditions.
7. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein for a period of time following administration of the composition, the site to which the composition was administered is generally maintained or the individual is instructed to maintain the site to which the composition was administered in low-light conditions.
8. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the low-light conditions are about 100 lux or less, about 50 lux or less, or about 25 lux or less.

9. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein for a period of time following administration of the composition, the site to which the composition was administered is generally not exposed to or the individual is instructed to limit or avoid exposure of the site to which the composition was administered to high-light conditions.
10. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the high-light conditions are about 100 lux or more, about 500 lux or more, or about 1,000 lux or more.
11. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by administering or being instructed to administer the composition at a specific time of day.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the specific time of day is about later than about hour before dusk.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the specific time of day is after dusk.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the specific time of day is before bedtime.
15. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the individual limits, avoids, or is instructed in a manner such as to limit or avoid exposure to light following administration by at least partially obstructing or being instructed to obstruct some or all light to the site to which the composition was administered during or following administration.
16. The method of claim 15, wherein obstruction of light is achieved by wearing headwear or eyewear that at least partially obstructs light.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein the headwear is a hat.
18. The method of claim 15, wherein the eyewear is sunglasses or goggles.
19. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the individual self-administers the composition.

20. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to at least some wavelengths of light.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to ultraviolet (UV) light.
22. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein limiting exposure to light comprises limiting exposure to sunlight.
23. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the individual is instructed to remain indoors.
24. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the individual is instructed to avoid sunlight or ultraviolet (UV) light.
25. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disease or disorder in or around the eye is meibomian gland dysfunction (MGD), blepharitis, seborrheic blepharitis, Demodex infestation, dry eye syndrome, hyperkeratosis, dermatitis, keratitis, contact lens discomfort, lid wiper epitheliopathy (LWE), Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca, Sjogren's Syndrome, or ocular rosacea.
26. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the disease or disorder in or around the eye is Blepharitis or Seborrheic Blepharitis.
27. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition comprises selenium disulfide in a therapeutically effective concentration.
28. The method of claim 27, wherein the therapeutically effective concentration is about 0.1 wt. % to about 10 wt. %.
29. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is administered in a volume of less than 25 μL .
30. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is administered in a volume of about 1 μL to about 20 μL .
31. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is a semi-solid.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the semi-solid is an ointment, a gel, a cream, or a paste.
33. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein (i) the composition is administered in a sufficiently low volume, and (ii) following administration, exposure to light of the site to which the composition was administered is sufficiently low, such that keratitis is reduced or avoided.
34. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein lower concentration can support more light exposure with minimal risk of phototoxicity.
35. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of light exposure tolerated and duration to avoid light exposure is correlated to the dose and concentration of SeS_2 administered.
36. A method for treating a disease or disorder in or around the eye in an individual in need thereof, the method comprising:
protecting an ocular surface of the individual with a barrier; and
administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to the ocular surface of the individual, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises a therapeutically effective amount of selenium disulfide (SeS_2).
37. The method of claim 36, wherein the protecting the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering hyaluronic acid (HA) to the ocular surface (e.g., thereby forming the barrier by hyaluronic acid (HA) interacting with mucin on the ocular surface to form a protective barrier thereon).
38. The method of claim 37, wherein the hyaluronic acid (HA) has a molecular weight of at least 900 kDa.
39. The method of claim 36, wherein the protecting the ocular surface of the individual comprises administering an additive molecule capable of or suitable for capturing a free radical or photosensitized SeS_2 .
40. The method of claim 39, wherein the free radical is a reactive oxygen species (ROS).
41. The method of any one of claims 39-40, wherein the additive comprises a phenolic compound, vitamin E, vitamin C, carotenes, ferritin, ceruloplasmin, selenium, reduced

glutathione (GSH), manganese, ubiquinone, zinc, flavonoids, coenzyme Q , melatonin, bilirubin, taurine, or cysteine.

42. The method of claim 36, wherein the barrier is a contact lens.
43. The method of any one of claims 36-42, wherein the barrier prevents the SeS_2 from contacting the ocular surface.
44. The method of any one of the preceding claims wherein administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to an ocular surface, surrounding ocular tissues, or a combination thereof of the individual comprises applying the pharmaceutical composition with a finger.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein the finger is a finger of the individual.

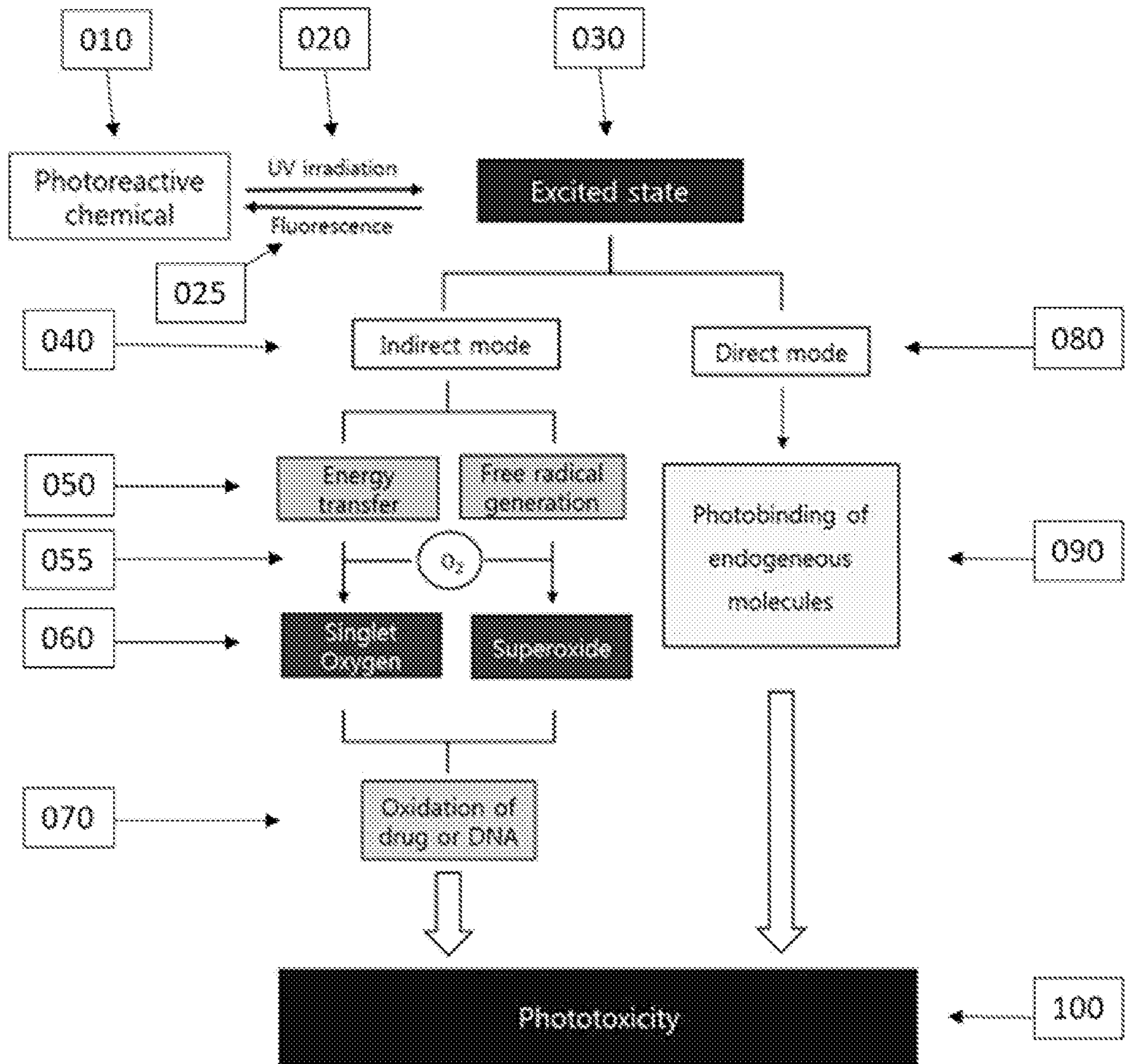


FIG. 1