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(54) Title: METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR TREATING FIBROTIC LIVER CONDITIONS, USING UDENAFIL COM-
POSITIONS

(57) Abstract: Various methods and compositions for using udenafil, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof, for improving en-
hanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for improving, maintaining/stabilizing, preventing and/or reducing the rate of decline of fibrotic im-
paired liver function, transforming a fibrotic liver to a less fibrotic liver, maintaining fibrotic liver condition, and/or reversing fibrotic
liver condition and function in patients who have fibrotic livers, especially patients having single ventricle heart disease (SVHD) who
have undergone Fontan surgery and have Fontan physiology.

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Related Applications

Statement of Government Interest

Field of the Invention

Background

A human heart beats (expands and contracts) approximately 100,000 times per day, pumping five to six quarts of blood each minute, or about 2,000 gallons per day. The left ventricle, the main pumping chamber of the heart, pumps freshly oxygenated blood (red blood) to the body through the aortic valve. The blood then circulates to all parts of the body through arteries and arterioles, delivering

5 oxygen and nutrients. As the blood flows through the circulation, it exchanges oxygen and nutrients for carbon dioxide and metabolic wastes. In this process, the blood transitions from oxygen-rich blood (red blood) to oxygen-poor blood (blue blood). The oxygen-poor blood then returns to the right atrium through the veins of the body. The blue blood passes through the tricuspid valve from the right atrium to the right ventricle, and then it is pumped to the lungs by the right ventricle to exchange carbon
10 dioxide for oxygen. The now freshly oxygenated blood (red blood) returns from the lungs to the left atrium via the pulmonary veins. The blood passes through the mitral valve from the left atrium to the left ventricle, and then is pumped to the body to start the circulation anew.

Thus, the normal human cardiovascular system consists of pulmonary and systemic circulations that are connected in series and powered by the pumping of the right and left ventricles.

15 Gewillig M.: Congenital heart disease. THE FONTAN CIRCULATION. *Heart*, 91:839-846 (2005).

Single ventricle heart disease (SVHD) is a rare pediatric disease that includes a group of cardiac malformations, each of which results in the presence of only a single functional ventricle (pumping chamber). In other words, unlike newborns born with normal hearts (four chambers and two ventricles). SVHD newborns are born with only one functioning ventricle (one pumping chamber),
20 i.e., single ventricle hearts. The non-functioning or missing ventricle (pumping chamber) may be smaller than the single ventricle such that it does not sufficiently function, it may be absent altogether, or it may be configured in such a way as to prevent it from contributing to the normal flow of blood through the circulation. Examples of SVHD include hypoplastic left heart syndrome, tricuspid atresia, double inlet left ventricle, and others.

25 Typically, SVHD newborns are cyanotic, blue in color, since a mixture of oxygen-poor blood (blue blood) and oxygen-rich blood (red blood) mix together in the single ventricle. The amount of oxygen within the blood mixture leaving the heart is very dependent upon the type, severity and location of the SVHD heart defect. Some SVHD newborns will be mildly cyanotic, whereas others will be severely cyanotic, requiring early intervention to meet the oxygen demands of the body to survive.
30 Unfortunately, without surgical intervention most newborns born with SVHD will not survive.

SVHD can be thought of as having two primary subtypes. In the first subtype, the left ventricle and the aorta (the main artery to the body) are under-developed and the heart is not able to pump blood to the body without an interventional procedure. In the second subtype, the right ventricle and the pulmonary artery (the main artery to the lungs) are under-developed and the heart is not able to pump
35 blood to the lungs.

For those infants born with an under-developed left ventricle and aorta, the first subtype, an urgent intervention is required within the first few days or weeks of life to stabilize blood flow to the body.

5 This intervention is called the Norwood operation, see **FIG. 5**, and involves rebuilding the aorta (the main artery to the body) using the pulmonary valve and pulmonary artery along with patch material. Since the Norwood operation repurposes the pulmonary artery to supply blood to the body, it also must include a way for blood to get to the lungs. This is accomplished by the inclusion of a “shunt” of blood from the aortic circulation to the pulmonary circulation. This shunt is generally a tube graft that
10 is placed between the right subclavian artery (the artery that supplies blood to the right arm) and the right pulmonary artery. The Norwood operation allow newborns to survive infancy, but is not a permanent solution. This temporary procedure forces the single pumping chamber of the heart to pump blood to both the body and to the lungs, putting it under stress. To relieve this stress, two additional procedures are performed. The first of these, the Glenn shunt or hemi-Fontan, see **FIG. 6**,
15 occurs at 4-6 months and involves connecting the superior vena cava (the main vein of the upper body) directly to the pulmonary arteries. This allows the blue blood from the upper body to return to the lungs for oxygen repletion without the need for a ventricular pump. The final surgery, the Fontan operation, See **FIG. 1A** and **FIG. 7**, typically occurs at 18-48 months of age and involves connecting the inferior vena cava (the main vein of the lower body) directly to the pulmonary arteries. This
20 allows blue blood from the lower body to return to the lungs for oxygen repletion without the need for a ventricular pump specifically pumping the blood to the lungs. After the Fontan operation, all blue blood returns to the lungs and all red blood returns from the lungs to the heart but this is accomplished without the assistance of a ventricular pump dedicated to pumping blood through the lungs to the heart, as with a normal four-chamber heart.

25 For those infants born with an under-developed right ventricle and pulmonary artery, the second subtype, an urgent neonatal intervention is often not required. This group of babies requires close monitoring to determine if there is too little blood flow to the lungs, too much blood flow to the lungs, or an appropriate amount of blood flow to allow for growth and development. If there is too little blood flow to the lungs, a shunt is often placed, similar to what is done as part of the Norwood
30 operation. If there is too much blood flow to the lungs, a restrictor may be placed around the pulmonary artery to reduce the amount of blood flow to the lungs to avoid the development of congestive heart failure. If the amount of blood flow to the lungs is appropriate, infants born with an under-developed right ventricle and pulmonary artery may go through their initial months of life without the need for a surgical intervention. Whether there is too little, too much, or an appropriate
35 amount of blood flow to the lungs, infants born with this type of SVHD still require the Glenn shunt or hemi-Fontan at 4-6 months of age and the Fontan at 18-48 months of age to relieve the burden from the heart and to separate the blue blood from the red blood.

After the Fontan operation, the subtype of single ventricle heart disease is less important as all patients are left with a common physiology: (i) passive blood flow from the superior and inferior vena

5 cava directly to the lungs bypassing the heart and (ii) a single ventricle that pumps blood to the body. Although this “Fontan circulation” has allowed for the survival of many thousands of patients over the last 40-50 years, it is far from normal. In the absence of a ventricular pump to push blood through the lungs and back to the heart, the Fontan circulation must rely on pressure generated in the veins of the body to accomplish this task. This results in a very elevated ‘blood pressure’ within the veins and also
10 limits the amount of flow that can circulate through the body in a given amount of time - this is called reduced cardiac output.

Over time, the combination of elevated pressure in the veins and reduced cardiac output lead to a predictable set of long-term complications and, ultimately, to a significantly diminished duration of survival. Complications related to the Fontan circulation include: damage to the kidneys and liver,
15 overload of the lymphatic circulation leading to protein loss in the lungs or gastrointestinal tract, bleeding and blood clotting disorders including the risk of stroke, and progressive dysfunction of the pumping ability of the heart itself.

The ability to perform exercise is used in many forms of heart disease as a marker of the health of the circulation. For those with a Fontan circulation, exercise is likewise an important measure of health
20 and a good predictor of outcomes. While exercise ability is often preserved for those with a Fontan circulation during childhood, it typically begins to drop during adolescence and early adulthood. This deterioration correlates with an increase in the prevalence of heart failure symptoms, hospitalizations, and mortality, often due to the complications of the Fontan circulation itself. In some cases, cardiac transplantation may remain a therapeutic option, but cardiac transplantation comes with its own sets
25 of risks, and patients with Fontan circulation may often be poor candidates for a heart transplant due to chronic and progressive dysfunction of many organ systems.

Fontan patients also are susceptible to liver disease as a result of the Fontan circulation. Fontan-associated liver disease (FALD) is defined as abnormalities in liver structure and function resulting
30 from the abnormal circulation created by the total cavopulmonary connection (TCPC) and not related to any other process (1). FALD is increasingly recognized as one of the most common complications of the TCPC (2, 3) and one which is universally present in patients with TCPC physiology (8-11). After the Fontan operation, blood from the inferior and superior vena cava are routed directly to the pulmonary arteries bypassing the heart (**FIG. 9**). In this circulation, blood is not “pumped” through
35 the lungs but is “pushed” through by chronic elevation of the central venous pressure. It is postulated that the Fontan’s elevated, non-phasic systemic venous pressure results in obligate chronic hepatic venous hypertension and congestion that is likely an important driver of hepatic fibrosis. As part of the injury response, activated myofibroblasts deposit excess extracellular matrix in the perisinusoidal space, a process which, if it persists, can lead to increased hepatocellular injury, progressive fibrosis,

5 organ dysfunction, and, ultimately, to cirrhosis and hepatic failure. The congestion and fibrosis result in a wide spectrum of liver disease, including synthetic dysfunction, ascites, portal hypertension, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, and may culminate in fulminant liver failure. The severity of liver fibrosis is known to increase with time after TCPC and occurs in the absence of any other identifiable etiology of chronic liver disease.

10 A roadblock to understanding and treating FALD is the lack of an established, noninvasive means of detecting it. Basic laboratory testing (platelet count, AST, ALT, bilirubin, GGT, INR) and standard imaging (conventional ultrasound (US), computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)) are insensitive to liver congestion and early liver fibrosis in these patients (8). Percutaneous
15 core needle liver biopsy, while the current standard of care, is not an ideal surveillance tool as the core sample may falsely under- or over-estimate the degree of fibrosis given the significant heterogeneity that often exists. Liver biopsy is also invasive and carries a small but real risk of bleeding, particularly in patients who require anti-coagulation.

20 Ultrasound shear wave elastography (SWE), based on the measurement of tissue shear wave speed, provides a non-invasive measure of liver stiffness and may provide technology to monitor the congestion and early fibrosis that precedes overt FALD. The utility of ultrasound SWE in assessing liver fibrosis has been well-documented (9, 10) and image-guided ultrasound SWE has been used in TCPC patients to demonstrate that liver stiffness correlates with hepatic congestion (as determined
25 by elevated central venous pressures) and hepatic fibrosis (as determined by liver biopsy) (11-13). MRI-elastography may be of utility as it allows sampling over a much larger region of the liver (thus, minimizing sampling error) and may potentially allow differentiation of stiffness due to fibrosis versus congestion, a feature which may be particularly useful in the evaluation of Fontan patients and in determining the best approach to targeted therapy in this population (14).

30 Notwithstanding this long-standing very serious congenital heart disease, to date, no pharmacotherapy has been approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) or any other equivalent agency through-out the world for the treatment of SVHD patients, including Fontan patients. Accordingly, there is a real need and demand for new pharmacotherapies for SVHD patients, including Fontan
35 patients, relating to complications of SVHD and the Fontan circulation, with the goals of increasing the life span of SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, and avoiding or delaying the progression of the disease and the need for cardiac transplantation.

There is also a real need and demand for new pharmacotherapies for patients, especially SVHD
40 patients, including Fontan patients, to (i) improve, stabilize or reduce the rate of decline of impaired

5 or fibrotic liver function, (ii) improve the myocardial performance index ("MPI"), (iii) improve single ventricular performance, (iv) improve exercise capacity at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT) and/or the maximal aerobic capacity (max VO₂ or VO₂ max), (v) improve the work rate at VAT, (vi) improve the ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide (VE/VCO₂) at VAT, and/or (vii) improve cardiac performance of the single ventricle.

10 **Summary of the Invention**

The present invention overcomes the above-mentioned drawbacks and disadvantages associated with current treatments of patients, especially single ventricle heart disease (SVHD) patients, including SVHD patients who have undergone Fontan surgery and have Fontan physiology, who have impaired liver function as characterized by enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, through the discovery of novel
15 methods of treating such patients, especially the SVHD patients and Fontan patients, with daily administration of an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to improve their impaired liver function, maintain their impaired liver function or slow the rate of decline of impaired liver function at a level that correlates with an (ELF) score. Generally speaking, the methods of the present invention are directed to the use of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
20 acceptable salt thereof, to treat patients, especially SVHD patients and Fontan patients.

More specifically, methods of the present invention comprise administering, preferably daily, to patients with impaired liver function, especially SVHD patients and Fontan patients, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to improve, amongst other things, their impaired liver function due to, amongst other things, liver fibrosis.

25 More specifically, methods of the present invention comprise administering, preferably daily, to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to improve, amongst other things, their MPI and exercise capacity or performance.

30 In general, the methods of the present invention include administering daily an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, to improve:

- 35 (a) ventricular performance of the SVHD patient's single functioning ventricle as measured by MPI;
- (b) exercise capacity as measured by oxygen consumption at VAT;
- (c) exercise capacity as measured by oxygen consumption at maximal effort or max VO₂;
- (d) work rate at VAT;
- 40 (e) VE/VCO₂ at VAT;

- 5 (f) diastolic blood pressure at rest;
(g) impaired liver function; and
(h) oxygen saturation (%) at rest, each individually, collectively or in any combination thereof.

- 10 Preferably, the methods of the present invention improve (a)-(h) listed above, including individually, collectively or in any combination thereof. Preferably, the methods of the present invention improve at least the combination of (a)-(e) and (g) listed above. Most preferably, (a)-(h) listed above, including individually, collectively or in any combination thereof, are improved in accordance with the present invention by administering daily to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, an effective amount
15 of udenafil, or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof.

Improvements in single ventricle performance in accordance with the methods of the present invention include improvements in both systolic and diastolic function. These can be demonstrated by improvements in, but not limited to, blood pool MPI, tissue Doppler MPI, cardiac output (estimated
20 by the product of the integral under the Doppler derived outflow curve and the heart rate), and other measures of single ventricle heart performance. Improvements in exercise capacity or performance in accordance with the methods of the present invention include, but are not limited to, improvements in exercise capacity or performance at anaerobic threshold (“VAT”) and/or improvements in exercise capacity or performance at maximal effort or max VO_2 . Also in accordance with the present invention,
25 there are improvements in work rate at VAT, ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide at VAT (VE/VCO_2), diastolic blood pressure at rest, impaired liver function and/or oxygen saturation (%) at rest, when the methods of the present invention are practiced with regard to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients.

Generally, “effective amount” is used herein to mean an amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
30 acceptable salt thereof, that is sufficient to elicit or induce a therapeutic, clinical or pharmacologic effect without causing treatment-limiting side effects.

More specifically, “effective amount” is used herein to mean an amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that is sufficient to elicit or induce a therapeutic, clinical or pharmacologic effect in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, without causing treatment-
35 limiting toxicity, treatment-limiting side effects associated with inhibition of PDE6 and/or PDE11, and/or any other treatment-limiting side effects.

An example of an “effective amount” of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in accordance with the present invention includes a total daily amount in a range that includes, but is not

5 limited to, from about 87.5 mg to about 175 mg. More preferably, an “effective amount” of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in accordance with the present invention includes a total daily amount in a range from about 125 mg to about 175 mg. Even more preferably, an “effective amount” of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in accordance with the present invention includes an oral dosage amount that includes, but is not limited to, a single dosage amount
10 administered daily, including a single dosage amount of about 75 mg or 87.5 mg administered once or twice a day and a single dosage amount of about 125 mg, 175 mg or a range of about 125 mg to about 175 mg administered once daily.

The present invention also contemplates methods which comprise administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a SVHD patient,
15 including a Fontan patient, for improving, amongst other things, MPI, ventricular performance, cardiac output, exercise capacity or performance at VAT, exercise capacity or performance at maximal effort or VO_2 max, work rate at VAT, VE/VCO_2 at VAT, impaired liver function, especially impaired fibrotic liver function, and diastolic blood pressure at rest and oxygen saturation (%) at rest, individually, collectively or in any combination, without causing treatment-limiting side effects, for
20 example, interference with visual transduction or function, back pain, myalgia, sperm concentration or quality. In other words, the present invention contemplates treatments, preferably daily, of a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, with an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, without causing treatment limiting side effects associated with inhibition of phosphodiesterase-6 (“PDE6”) and/or phosphodiesterase-11 (“PDE11”). As used herein, PDE6
25 includes any isoenzyme, variant, catalytic subunit and/or inhibitory subunit of PDE6, such as PDE6 α , PDE6 β , PDE6 γ , PDE6R and/or PDE6C, individually, collectively, or in any combination, As used herein PDE11, includes phosphodiesterase-11A (PDE11A) and any isoenzyme, variant, catalytic subunit and or inhibitory subunit of PDE11, such as PDE11A, including PDE11A1, PED11A2, PDE11A3 and/or PDE11A4, individually, collectively, or in any combination.

30 In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving the MPI in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. As used herein MPI measures both systolic and diastolic function for the assessment of global heart function. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

It is to be understood that by “improve, improving, improvement in or improved”, with respect to MPI
35 in accordance with the present invention, it means herein to improve single ventricle performance, i.e., to improve the diastolic and systolic function of the single functioning ventricle. In other words, the single functioning ventricle squeezes better or more efficiently per heartbeat. As a result, the cardiac output and the amount of blood flow that can circulate in a given amount of time throughout the body of the SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, who practice or who are treated in accordance with

5 the methods of the present invention are increased or improved, especially as compared to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, who are not treated in accordance with the methods of the present invention. Thus, the methods of the present invention result in MPI, or other disclosed measures of ventricular performance, improvement in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, as compared to MPI, or other disclosed measures of single ventricular performance in the absence of the methods of
10 the present invention (e.g., in the absence of udenafil administration). For example, the improvement can be about 5, about 6, about 7, about 8, about 9, about 10, about 11, about 12, about 13, about 14, about 15, about 16, about 17, about 18, about 19, about 20, about 21, about 22, about 23, about 24, about 25, about 26, about 27, about 28, about 29, or about 30% or greater as compared to blood pool MPI, or other disclosed measures of single ventricular performance in the absence of the methods of
15 the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration).

The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving systolic function of the single functioning ventricle of a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises
20 administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving diastolic function of the single functioning ventricle of a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
25 thereof.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving cardiac output of the single functioning ventricle of a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

30 In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving the ability of the single functioning ventricle in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient to squeeze. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving the venous
35 pressure by decreasing the elevation in venous pressure in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

5 In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving the amount of blood flow that can circulate through the body of the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, in a given amount of time. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

10 Thus, the present invention is directed to a method of improving global single ventricular performance of the single functioning ventricle in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient.

15 In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving diastolic blood pressure at rest in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, whereby the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, diastolic blood pressure at rest is significantly lowered. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

20 In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving oxygen saturation (%) at rest in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

25 In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving exercise performance or capacity in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

30 In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving exercise performance or capacity at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold ("VAT") in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The methods of the present invention result in improved VO_2 at VAT in SVHD patient, including the Fontan patient, as compared to VO_2 at VAT in SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, who are not treated with or do not practice the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration in accordance with the methods of the present invention). For example, the improvement can be about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 7%, about 8%, about 9%, about 10%, about 11%, about 12%, about 13%, about 14%, about 15%, about 16%, about 17%, about 18%, about 19%, about 20%, about 21%, about 22%, about 23%, about 24%, about 25%, about 26%, about 27%, about 28%, about 29%, or about 30% or greater as compared to VO_2 at VAT in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence

5 of daily udenafil administration). The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving exercise performance or capacity at maximal effort or max VO_2 in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

10 The methods of the present invention result in improved VO_2 at the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, maximal effort, as compared to VO_2 at maximal effort in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration). For example, the improvement can be about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 7%, about 8%, about 9%, about 10%, about 11%, about 12%, about 13%, about 14%, about 15%, about 16%,
15 about 17%, about 18%, about 19%, about 20%, about 21%, about 22%, about 23%, about 24%, about 25%, about 26%, about 27%, about 28%, about 29%, or about 30% or greater, as compared to VO_2 at maximal effort in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration). The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan
20 patient.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving work rate at VAT in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. The methods of the present invention result in improved work rate at the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, VAT, as compared to the work rate at VAT in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily
25 udenafil administration). For example, the improvement can be about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 7%, about 8%, about 9%, about 10%, about 11%, about 12%, about 13%, about 14%, about 15%, about 16%, about 17%, about 18%, about 19%, about 20%, about 21%, about 22%, about 23%, about 24%, about 25%, about 26%, about 27%, about 28%, about 29%, or
30 about 30% or greater, as compared to VO_2 at VAT in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration). The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide at the VAT (" VE/VCO_2 ") at VAT in a SVHD patient, including a
35 Fontan patient. The methods of the present invention result in improved VE/VCO_2 at the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, VAT, as compared to the VE/VCO_2 at VAT in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration). For example, the improvement can be about 1%, about 2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 7%, about 8%, about 9%, about 10%, about 11%, about 12%, about 13%, about 14%, about

5 15%, about 16%, about 17%, about 18%, about 19%, about 20%, about 21%, about 22%, about 23%,
about 24%, about 25%, about 26%, about 27%, about 28%, about 29%, or about 30% or greater, as
compared to VO₂ at VAT in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in the absence
of daily udenafil administration). The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective
amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a
10 Fontan patient.

In another embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving impaired liver
function in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient or at least 12 months and, preferably, 18
months. The methods of the present invention result in improved impaired liver function as
characterized by an ELF score for the SVHD patient, including the Fontan patient's, VAT, as
15 compared to impaired liver function in the absence of the methods of the present invention (e.g., in
the absence of daily udenafil administration). For example, the improvement can be about 1%, about
2%, about 3%, about 4%, about 5%, about 6%, about 7%, about 8%, about 9%, about 10%, about
11%, about 12%, about 13%, about 14%, about 15%, about 16%, about 17%, about 18%, about 19%,
about 20%, about 21%, about 22%, about 23%, about 24%, about 25%, about 26%, about 27%, about
20 28%, about 29%, about 30%, about 40%, about 50%, about 60%, about 70%, about 80%, about 90%
or about 100% greater, as compared to liver impaired function in the absence of the methods of the
present invention (e.g., in the absence of daily udenafil administration). The method comprises
administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
thereof, to a patient with impaired fibrotic liver function, especially an SVHD patient, including a
25 Fontan patient, with impaired fibrotic liver function.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to improved methods for treating a SVHD
patient, including a Fontan patient, who has undergone heart reconstruction of the abnormal SVHD
heart, wherein the daily methods of the present invention result in fewer or less severe adverse events,
as compared to conventional methods of treating such a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

30 In another embodiment, the methods of the present invention result in few, if any, serious adverse
events, moderate adverse events, or mild adverse events. The method comprises administering,
preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the
SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to improved methods for treating a SVHD
35 patient who has undergone a Fontan procedure. In one such embodiment, the Fontan patient is
diagnosed with hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS), but first had a Norwood procedure, see, e.g.,
FIG. 5, followed by a Hemi-Fontan or Bi-directional Glenn procedure, see, e.g., **FIG. 6**, before
undergoing the Fontan procedure, see, e.g., **FIG. 1A** and **FIG. 7**. In another such embodiment, the

5 Fontan patient first had a Hemi-Fontan or Bi-directional Glenn procedure before undergoing the Fontan procedure. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

10 In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to improved methods for treating a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, wherein the SVHD is selected from a group of SVHDs consisting of patients having an atrioventricular canal defect (AV Canal), a double inlet left ventricle (DILV), a double outlet right ventricle (DORV), Ebstein's anomaly, HLHS, mitral valve atresia (usually associated with HLHS), pulmonary atresia with intact ventricular septum (PA/IVS), a single left ventricle, tricuspid valve atresia and tricuspid valve atresia with stenosis. The method comprises
15 administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. In an exemplary embodiment, the methods of the present invention comprise administering an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, once a day to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

20 In another embodiment, the methods of the present invention comprise administering an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, twice a day to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

In another embodiment, the methods of the present invention comprise administering an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, three or more times a day to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient.

25 In another embodiment, the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, is a pediatric patient of about 2 to about 18 years of age. Treatment of adult patients are also encompassed by the methods of the invention.

30 In yet another embodiment, the present invention is directed to improved methods for treating a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, wherein the methods of the present invention show an improvement in the SVHD patient's, including Fontan patient's, compliance with a dosing schedule of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as compared to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, prescribed a non-udenafil drug.

35 In yet another embodiment, the methods of the present invention may result in a unique characteristic pharmacokinetic profile. The pharmacokinetic profile can comprises a $C_{\max}$ between 300 and 700 ng/ml, or more specifically, about 500 ng/ml; a $T_{\max}$ between 1 and 1.6 hr, or more specifically, about 1.3 hr; an AUC_t between 2550 and 4150 ng•hr/ml or more, specifically about 3350 ng•hr/ml; and an AUC_{0-24} between 5110 and 8290 ng•hr/ml or more, specifically about 6701 ng•hr/ml.

5 In another embodiment, the methods of the present invention include methods of treating a patient, including SVHD and Fontan patients, having impaired liver function characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for improving or maintaining the function of the impaired liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue
10 inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score from 9.9 to 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score from 7.7 to 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need
15 of treatment to improve, maintain, or reduce or slow the rate of decline of the patient's liver function, said method comprising orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for improving, maintaining or reducing or slowing the rate of decline of the liver function of the patient's impaired
20 liver.

Preferably, the patients' impaired, fibrotic livers are improved in their function as reflected in the ELF scores by one, two or even three levels of decreased fibrosis as described above. For example, preferably patients whose ELF scores initially categorize the liver as cirrhotic, upon treatment in accordance with the present invention, may improve to either severe fibrosis or moderate fibrosis or
25 even weak or no fibrosis as indicated by the ELF scores.

Preferably, the patients' impaired fibrotic livers, which are maintained against further fibrosis, for example, those patients' livers which are maintained in a fibrosis-free or mild fibrosis state, as measured according to the ELF score, without progressing to moderate liver fibrosis or severe liver fibrosis or cirrhosis, are maintained at the less fibrotic state for at least one year, more preferably, for
30 at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having moderate liver fibrosis, as indicated by the ELF score, is maintained at that level and do not progress to severe fibrosis or cirrhosis, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having severe fibrosis are maintained without progressing to cirrhosis, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months.

35 Preferably, the patients' impaired fibrotic livers, which impaired liver function is improved, for example, those patients' impaired livers which are in a sclerosis state are improved to a severe fibrotic, a moderate fibrotic, and/or a mild fibrotic or a fibrosis-free state, as measured according to the ELF score, are maintained at the less fibrotic state for at least one year, more preferably, for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having impaired liver function at severe liver fibrosis level, as indicated

5 by the ELF score, are converted to a level of moderate fibrosis and/or mild fibrosis or no-fibrosis state, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having moderate fibrosis are converted to a mild fibrosis or fibrosis-free state, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months.

In a preferred embodiment, the present invention comprises methods for improving Fontan-associated liver disease (FALD). FALD is defined as abnormalities in liver structure and function resulting from the abnormal circulation created by the total cavopulmonary connection (TCPC) and not related to any other process. Greenway SC, Crossland DS, Hudson M, Martin SR, Myers RP, Prieur T, Hasan A, Kirk R. Fontan-associated liver disease: Implications for heart transplantation. *J Heart Lung Transplant* 2016 Jan;35(1):26-33. FALD is increasingly recognized as one of the most common complications of the TCPC. Rychik J, Veldtman G, Rand E, Russo P, Rome JJ, Krok K, Goldberg DJ, Cahill AM, Wells RG. The precarious state of the liver after a Fontan operation: summary of a multidisciplinary symposium. *Pediatr Cardiol* 2012 Oct;33(7):1001-12; Tweddell JS, Nersesian M, Mussatto KA, Nugent M, Simpson P, Mitchell ME, Ghanayem NS, Pelech AN, Marla R, Hoffman GM. Fontan palliation in the modern era: factors impacting mortality and morbidity, *Ann Thorac Surg* 2009 Oct;88(4):1291-9. FALD is universally present in patients with TCPC physiology. Bradley E, Hendrickson B, Daniels C. Fontan Liver Disease: Review of an Emerging Epidemic and Management Options. *Curr Treat Options Cardiovasc Med* 2015 Nov;17(11):51; Kendall TJ, Stedman B, Hacking N, Haw M, Vettukattill JJ, Salmon AP, Cope R, Sheron N, Millward-Sadler H, Veldtman GR, Iredale JP. Hepatic fibrosis and cirrhosis in the Fontan circulation: a detailed morphological study. *J Clin Pathol* 2008 Apr; 61(4):504-8; Kieseewetter CH, Sheron N, Vettukattill JJ, Hacking N, Stedman B, Millward-Sadler H, Haw M, Cope R, Salmon AP, Sivaprakasam MC, Kendall T, Keeton BR, Iredale JP, Veldtman GR. Hepatic changes in the failing Fontan Circulation. *Heart* 2007 May;93(5):579-84; Wallihan DB, Podberesky DJ. Hepatic pathology after Fontan palliation: spectrum of imaging findings. *Pediatr Radiol* 2013 Mar;43(3):330-8. After the Fontan operation, blood from the inferior and superior vena cava are routed directly to the pulmonary arteries bypassing the heart (**FIG. 9**). In this circulation, blood is not “pumped” through the lungs but is “pushed” through by chronic elevation of the central venous pressure. It is postulated that the Fontan’s elevated, non-phasic systemic venous pressure results in obligate chronic hepatic venous hypertension and congestion that is likely an important driver of hepatic fibrosis. As part of the injury response, activated myofibroblasts deposit excess extracellular matrix in the perisinusoidal space, a process which, if it persists, can lead to increased hepatocellular injury, progressive fibrosis, organ dysfunction, and, ultimately, to cirrhosis and hepatic failure. The congestion and fibrosis result in a wide spectrum of liver disease, including synthetic dysfunction, ascites, portal hypertension, cirrhosis, and hepatocellular carcinoma, and may culminate in fulminant liver failure. The severity of liver fibrosis is known to increase with time after

5 TCPC and occurs in the absence of any other identifiable etiology of chronic liver disease. A depiction showing aspects of FALD and some biomarkers associated therewith is shown in **FIG. 9**.

A roadblock to understanding and treating FALD is the lack of an established, noninvasive means of detecting it. Basic laboratory testing (platelet count, AST, ALT, bilirubin, GGT, INR) and standard imaging (conventional ultrasound (US), computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)) are insensitive to liver congestion and early liver fibrosis in these patients. Bradley E, Hendrickson B, Daniels C. Fontan Liver Disease: Review of an Emerging Epidemic and Management Options. *Curr Treat Options Cardiovasc Med* 2015 Nov;17(11):51. Percutaneous core needle liver biopsy, while the current standard of care, is not an ideal surveillance tool as the core sample may falsely under- or over-estimate the degree of fibrosis given the significant heterogeneity that often exists. Liver biopsy is also invasive and carries a small but real risk of bleeding, particularly in patients who require anti-coagulation.

Ultrasound shear wave elastography (SWE), based on the measurement of tissue shear wave speed, provides a non-invasive measure of liver stiffness and is an extremely promising technology to monitor the congestion and early fibrosis that precedes overt FALD. The utility of ultrasound SWE in assessing liver fibrosis has been well-documented. Kendall TJ, Stedman B, Hacking N, Haw M, Vettukattill JJ, Salmon AP, Cope R, Sheron N, Millward-Sadler H, Veldtman GR, Iredale JP. Hepatic fibrosis and cirrhosis in the Fontan circulation: a detailed morphological study. *J Clin Pathol* 2008 Apr;61(4):504-8. Kiesewetter CH, Sheron N, Vettukattill JJ, Hacking N, Stedman B, Millward-Sadler H, Haw M, Cope R, Salmon AP, Sivaprakasam MC, Kendall T, Keeton BR, Iredale JP, Veldtman GR. Hepatic changes in the failing Fontan circulation. *Heart* 2007 May;93(5):579-84. Image-guided ultrasound SWE has been used in TCPC patients to demonstrate that liver stiffness correlates with hepatic congestion (as determined by elevated central venous pressures) and hepatic fibrosis (as determined by liver biopsy). Wallihan DB, Podberesky DJ. Hepatic pathology after Fontan palliation: spectrum of imaging findings. *Pediatr Radiol* 2013 Mar;43(3):330-8; Kutty SS, Zhang M, Danford DA, Hasan R, Duncan KF, Kugler JD, Quiros-Tejeira RE, Kutty S. Hepatic stiffness in the bidirectional cavopulmonary circulation: The Liver Adult-Pediatric-Congenital-Heart-Disease Dysfunction Study group. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 2016 Mar;151(3):678-84; Melero-Ferrer JL, Osa-Saez A, Buendia-Fuentes F, Ballesta-Cunat A, Flors L, Rodriguez-Serrano M, Calvillo-Batlles P, Arnau-Vives MA, Palencia-Perez MA, Rueda-Soriano J. Fontan Circulation in Adult Patients: Acoustic Radiation Force Impulse Elastography as a Useful Tool for Liver Assessment. *World J Pediatr Congenit Heart Surg* 2014 Jun 23;5(3):365-71. MRI-elastography may be of even greater utility as it allows sampling over a much larger region of the liver (thus, minimizing sampling error) and may potentially allow differentiation of stiffness due to fibrosis versus congestion, a feature which may be particularly useful in the evaluation of Fontan patients and in determining the best

5 approach to targeted therapy in this population. Wallihan DB, Podberesky DJ, Marino BS, Sticka JS, Serai S. Relationship of MR elastography determined liver stiffness with cardiac function after Fontan palliation. J Magn Reson Imaging 2014 Dec;40(6):1328-35.

For improving the understanding of FALD and its treatment a FALD study was run as part of the FUEL Study Extension Trial. The FUEL Study Extension Trial was an NHLBI-sponsored study that
10 assessed the efficacy of safety and efficacy of udenafil, a phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitor (PDE-5i) that causes relaxation and decongestion of the pulmonary and systemic venous vasculature, to improve Fontan cardiac function, peripheral endothelial function, and exercise performance in adolescents who have undergone TCPC. By partnering with the FUEL Extension trial, we have had the unique opportunity to 1) measure liver stiffness across a large cross-section of children and adolescents after
15 TCPC; 2) assess how liver stiffness responds to vasodilator therapy determine; 3) determine if liver stiffness correlates with important functional outcomes; and 4) determine the relationship between biomarkers of heart failure and liver fibrosis and liver stiffness. Currently, PDE-5i therapy after the Fontan is reserved for those patients who have clinically symptomatic heart failure. However, a significant and sustained reduction in liver stiffness with PDE-5i therapy would suggest that earlier
20 treatment might reduce the incidence, severity and rate of progression of FALD. This has important implications for a population in whom the rate of liver fibrosis is a critical determinant of overall long-term health.

While there have been many small studies that have used SWE to evaluate the degree of liver stiffness in patients who have undergone TCPC, there has not been a large-scale evaluation that defines
25 “normal” in this population or seeks to correlate liver stiffness with functional outcome. Similarly, the impact of treatment with pulmonary vasodilators, medications that should lower systemic venous pressure, has not been evaluated. The FUEL Extension trial presented a unique opportunity to measure liver stiffness in those with TCPC, to evaluate the impact of udenafil on liver stiffness, to correlate liver stiffness with functional outcomes, and to gain valuable insight into the relationship
30 between liver stiffness and biomarkers of heart failure and fibrosis.

Ultrasound SWE uses one or more acoustic radiation force impulses (ARFI) or “push pulses” to generate shear waves in the tissue of interest. These shear waves can be tracked and their speed measured, with increasing tissue stiffness associated with increasing tissue shear wave speed. Shear wave speed can be mathematically converted to both shear and Young’s moduli (in kPa), mechanical
35 properties related to tissue rigidity and elasticity. There are two major forms of ultrasound SWE – “point” and “2D”. Point ultrasound SWE provides a very focal estimate of liver stiffness using a small region-of-interest, while 2D ultrasound SWE provides a regional color parameteric map (elastogram) of image stiffness and allows measurement over a much larger area of the liver.

5 MR elastography uses a vibrating passive driver or “paddle” placed on the abdominal wall over the liver in order to generate in vivo shear waves. These shear waves can be tracked using an MRI modified phase contrast pulse sequence. Shear wave data is then used to generate color parametric maps (elastograms) of liver stiffness that allow quantitative assessment (Figure 4). We have demonstrated excellent agreement when using intra-class correlation coefficients to assess
10 reproducibility of MR elastography measurements across MRI scanners (Philips and GE Healthcare), field strengths (1.5T and 3T), and pulse sequences in 24 adult healthy volunteers. Pairwise ICCs ranged from 0.67-0.82 when agreement was assessed between individual sequences across manufacturers (GE vs. Philips); the greatest agreement while fixing the pulse sequence was at 1.5T using 2D GRE sequences (ICC=0.82, r=0.85). Trout AT, Dillman JR, Xanthakos S, Kohli R, Sprague
15 G, Serai S, Mahley AD, Podberesky DJ. Prospective assessment of correlation between US acoustic radiation forced impulse and MR elastography in a pediatric population: Dispersion of US shear-wave speed measurement matters. Radiology 2016 Dec;282(3): 544-552.

A study by Wallihan et al (supra) showed that MRI-derived liver stiffness was universally elevated in a cohort of children and young adults that had undergone the Fontan procedure. They also found a
20 statistically significant inverse correlation between liver stiffness and cardiac index ($p=0.02$) and ejection fraction ($p=0.002$). Patients with long Fontan duration (>20 years post-op) had greater liver stiffness compared with those having a shorter duration ($p=0.02$). The study provided evidence that elevated liver stiffness in Fontan patients is likely due to both fibrosis and congestion.

As noted previously, increased liver stiffness can be secondary to hepatic congestion and/or hepatic
25 fibrosis. Circulating biomarkers previously demonstrated to be associated with congestive heart failure or tissue fibrosis may help to determine the primary driver of liver stiffness in a particular patient and help to monitor the response to targeted therapy. For instance, patients with increased liver stiffness due to hepatic congestion may have increased biomarkers of heart failure (e.g., BNP, NT-proBNP). Patients in whom fibrosis significantly contributes to increased liver stiffness may well
30 have elevation in biomarkers associated with liver fibrosis (e.g., ELF panel, miR-138, miR-143, or galectin-3). The relative contribution of congestion or fibrosis (as determined by biomarker profiles) to the observed level of liver stiffness may correlate with which therapeutic strategies are likely to be successful in a particular patient. Therefore, in this aim, we sought to determine which circulating biomarkers correlate with measures of liver stiffness and which correlate with a change in liver
35 stiffness with udenafil treatment. We used both a directed approach, with an analysis of candidate biomarkers validated for other disease processes, and a non-directed approach, which identifies novel biomarkers associated with FALD.

The FALD study, ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03430583, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, was an open-label extension study that integrated with the FUEL Extension

5 Trial. FUEL-enrolled patients had been randomized and double-blinded to either placebo or udenafil for 6 months, and all patients entering the FUEL Extension trial were placed on udenafil therapy. Therefore, approximately 50% of patients eligible to be enrolled in our study were udenafil-naïve (U-) or FUEL Trial udenafil-free placebo and about 50% had already completed 6-months of FUEL Trial
10 udenafil therapy (U+). As a part of the FALD study, each participant received one year of udenafil treatment (87.5 mg twice daily). Both the U- cohort and the U+ cohort had liver stiffness measured by ultrasound and MR elastography (where available), and ELF biomarkers analyzed, as described above. Thus, the U- subjects will have elastography and biomarker measurements pre-udenafil and after 1 year of treatment allowing for consideration of possible impact of udenafil therapy on liver stiffness and fibrosis. Additionally, the U+ cohort from FUEL will allow us to determine if potential benefits
15 of udenafil therapy sustained over time by comparing measurements after 6 (baseline entry into our study) and 18 months of therapy (after 1-year of our study).

The Enhanced Liver Fibrosis (ELF) scores were based on the serum levels of hyaluronic acid (HA), amino-terminal propeptide of type III collagen (PIIINP), and tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinase-1 (TIMP-1). Testing was performed by the FUEL-OLE Central Laboratory using the serum samples. In
20 accordance with prior studies, we assigned those patients with scores of <7.7 to the no-fibrosis or mild fibrosis group, 7.7-9.8 to the moderate fibrosis group, 9.8 – 11.3 to the severe fibrosis group, and >11.3 to the cirrhosis group.

The primary outcome measure of the FALD study was the range of liver stiffness in adolescents with Single Ventricle Heart Disease who underwent Fontan palliation. Secondary outcome measures
25 included the effect of drug therapy on liver stiffness, and the effect of drug therapy on Enhanced Liver Fibrosis (ELF) score. See Clinical Trials.gov identifier NCT03430583, at p.3. It is to be understood that present invention contemplates udenafil drug products that are therapeutically equivalent to the udenafil drug products of the present invention. In other words, the present invention contemplates udenafil drug products that (i) are therapeutically equivalent, (ii) are bioequivalent, (iii) are
30 interchangeable, and (iv) have bio availabilities that, when administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient in accordance with the methods of the present invention, are effective in carrying out or performing the objectives of the present invention.

Thus, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the present invention contemplates drug formulations that have a 90% confidence interval (90% CI) for a pharmacokinetic
35 profile wherein the ratio of the means lies within the range of between about 0.8 and about 1.25. In another embodiment in accordance with the present invention, the present invention contemplates interchangeable udenafil drug formulations that have a 90% confidence interval (90% CI) for a pharmacokinetic profile wherein the ratio of the means lies within the range of between about 0.8 and about 1.2. The present invention therefore contemplates SVHD patients, including Fontan patients,

5 who are treated with or practice the methods of the present invention, having a udenafil plasma concentration that can vary by up to about 45% (i.e. -20 to +25%) of a pharmacokinetic profile, such as their $C_{\max}$, $T_{\max}$ and AUC. More preferably, the present invention contemplates SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, who are treated with or practice the methods of the present invention, having a udenafil plasma concentration that can vary by up to about 40% (i.e. -20 to +20%) of a
10 pharmacokinetic profile, such as their $C_{\max}$, $T_{\max}$, AUC_t and AUC_{0-24} . By way of example, the present invention contemplates SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, who are treated with or practice the methods of the present invention, having a udenafil pharmacokinetic profile:

- 15 (a) $C_{\max}$ plasma concentration of about -20 to about +25% of about 500 ng/ml, and more preferably a udenafil $C_{\max}$ plasma concentration of about -20 to about +20% of about 500 ng/ml;
- (b) $T_{\max}$ of about -20 to about +25% of about 1.3 hr, and more preferably a udenafil $T_{\max}$ of about -20 to about +20% of 1.3 hr;
- (c) AUC_t of about -20 to about +25% of about 3350 ng•hr/ml, and more preferably a udenafil AUC_t of about -20 to about +20% of about 3350 ng•hr/ml; and
- 20 (d) AUC_{0-24} of about -20 to about +25% of about 6701 ng•hr/ml, and more preferably a udenafil AUC_{0-24} of about -20 to about +20% of about 6701 ng•hr/ml, individually, collectively, or in any combination.

Thus, the present invention contemplates bioequivalent and interchangeable udenafil drug products for use in accordance with the methods of the present invention. In addition, the present invention
25 contemplates udenafil drug products that produce the above referenced $C_{\max}$, $T_{\max}$, AUC_t and/or AUC_{0-24} in SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, when administered to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, in accordance with the methods of the present invention.

It should be further understood that the above summary of the present invention is not intended to describe each disclosed embodiment or every implementation of the present invention. The foregoing
30 description further exemplifies illustrative embodiments and provides explanation of the present invention as claimed. In several places throughout the specification, guidance is provided through examples, which examples can be used in various combinations. In each instance, the examples serve only as representative groups and should not be interpreted as exclusive examples.

Brief Description of the Drawings

35 The foregoing and other objects, advantages and features of the present invention, and the manner in which the same are accomplished, will be readily apparent to those of skill in the art from the

5 following brief description of the drawings, the detailed description of the present invention and the examples, which illustrate embodiments, wherein:

FIG. 1A is a schematic drawing of an exemplary Fontan physiology.

FIG. 1B is a screening process (Randomization and Treatment of the Participants) used for the Fontan Udenafil Exercise Longitudinal (FUEL) Trial as described in the Examples 1-2. Peak VO_2 ($\text{VO}_2 \text{ max}$)
10 denotes oxygen consumption at peak exercise. RER denotes respiratory exchange ratio.

FIG. 2A demonstrates the difference in the change in mean peak or max VO_2 from Baseline to Week 26 along with the standard deviation for each treatment arm.

FIG. 2B demonstrates the percentage of subjects (y axis) who demonstrated improvement in peak VO_2 by the reference percentage or greater (x axis).

15 **FIG. 3A** demonstrates the difference in the change in mean VO_2 at VAT from Baseline to Week 26 along with the standard deviation for each treatment arm.

FIG. 3B demonstrates the percentage of subjects (y axis) who demonstrated improvement in VO_2 at VAT by the reference percentage or greater (x axis).

FIG. 4A demonstrates the difference in the change in mean work rate at VAT from Baseline to Week
20 26 along with the standard deviation for each treatment arm.

FIG. 4B demonstrates the percentage of subjects (y axis) who demonstrated improvement in work rate by the reference percentage or greater (x axis).

FIG. 5 is a schematic drawing of an exemplary Norwood procedure (Stage 1) of a reconstructed SVHD heart with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS).

25 **FIG. 6** is a schematic drawing of an exemplary Bidirectional Glenn procedure (Stage 2) of a reconstructed SVHD heart with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS).

FIG. 7 is a schematic drawing of an exemplary Fontan procedure (Stage 3), an Extracardiac Fenestrated Fontan procedure, of a reconstructed SVHD heart with Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome (HLHS).

30 **FIGS. 8A** and **8B** depicts Chart 1A (**FIG. 8A**) and Chart 1B (**FIG. 8B**) which are scatterplots showing the percent change in ELF score compared to the baseline score for all subjects that had both a measurable baseline value and a measurable 52 week value.

5 **FIG. 9** is a schematic drawing showing aspects of FALD and some biomarkers associated therewith.

Detailed Description of the Invention

I. Fontan Physiology

The Fontan physiology is the definitive palliation for those classes of congenital heart defects that share the common feature of a functional single ventricle and cannot support biventricular circulation.

10 They include defects that result in hypoplastic (malfunctioning) left or right ventricles. Usually through a series of 2 or 3 operations, the systemic and pulmonary circulations are separated to significantly eliminate the mixing of oxygenated and un-oxygenated blood caused by the congenital heart defects. This is accomplished by directly attaching the superior and inferior vena cavae to the pulmonary arteries, i.e., the total cavopulmonary connection. This results in a Fontan physiology that
15 works as follows: (1) the single systemic ventricle pumps oxygenated blood (red blood) out the aorta to the body's systemic arterial vascular bed, (2) the systemic venous blood (un-oxygenated, blue blood) then returns by the vena cavae and the blue blood flows passively through the pulmonary vascular bed for oxygen uptake in the lungs without the aid of a sub-pulmonary ventricle to oxygenate the un-oxygenated, blue blood, and (3) the now oxygenated blood (red blood) then returns to the
20 functioning single systemic ventricle pump via the common systemic functioning atrium and the red blood-blue blood circulation cycle is repeated. This anatomy is illustrated in **FIG. 1A** and **FIG. 7**.

The Fontan operation, which creates a total cavopulmonary connection, an alternative to atriopulmonary connection, separates the systemic and pulmonary circuits by connecting them in parallel and eliminates both hypoxemia and ventricular volume overload. In other words, total
25 cavopulmonary connections are used to divert systemic venous return directly into the pulmonary vascular bed, providing more "effective" pulmonary blood flow and reducing the volume load on the single functioning ventricle.

However, following the Fontan operation there is no ventricular pump to propel the un-oxygenated, blue blood into the pulmonary arteries. Instead, the un-oxygenated, blue blood returns to the lungs via
30 passive flow from the systemic veins. Thus, the major physiologic consequence of this type of palliation is that pulmonary un-oxygenated, blue blood flow is completely dependent upon the pressure gradient from the systemic venous bed to the atrium. The normal circulation flow through the pulmonary bed is augmented by the increased pressure generated by the right ventricle. In a healthy adolescent, this results in an increase of about 20 to 25 mm Hg in the pressure present in the
35 pulmonary arteries at rest, which may double with exercise. With the Fontan physiology, there is no sub-pulmonary ventricle and thus no augmentation of pressure as the un-oxygenated, blue blood enters the pulmonary arteries. At rest, the pressure gradient across the pulmonary vascular bed is

5 significantly less. The ability to increase this pressure gradient with exercise is extremely limited by the body's ability to tolerate increasingly elevated central venous pressures.

As a consequence of being entirely dependent upon the passive drop in venous pressure to drive pulmonary blood flow, the Fontan physiology is exquisitely sensitive to changes in pulmonary vascular resistance. Even increases that are well within the normal range for pulmonary resistance in
10 normal physiology will have detrimental effects on the Fontan physiology. The use of udenafil offers a potential therapy that is unique to this class of palliated congenital heart defects. Unlike other uses for PDE-5 inhibitors, this therapy would be to lower pulmonary vascular resistance in a population without elevated pulmonary vascular resistances or pressures. This is a distinctly different use, as compared to patients with (i) structurally normal hearts and pulmonary vascular disease, such as
15 pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), (ii) heart failure, such as congestive heart disease, or (iii) the very rare patient with congenital heart disease palliated with a two ventricle repair (and thus having a sub-pulmonary ventricle) and associated pulmonary vascular disease.

II. Clinical Measurements Relevant to Fontan Patients

20 For children born with functional single ventricle or single ventricular congenital heart disease, the Fontan procedure is the current standard of care. The Fontan procedure is palliative, rather than curative, and while it has greatly increased the survival of pediatric subjects with functional single ventricle heart disease, the procedure also results in a series of side effects and complications that can lead to attrition of patients, with complications such as arrhythmias, ventricular dysfunction, and
25 unusual clinical syndromes of protein-losing enteropathy (PLE) and plastic bronchitis, as well as hepatic complications, including impaired liver function resulting from, e.g., fibrogenesis, and kidney complications.

In certain embodiments, the disclosed present invention relates to improving or preventing the decline of specific clinically relevant physiological measurements that are indicative of a patient's health
30 following a Fontan procedure. Such measurements include, but are not limited to, exercise testing, vascular function testing, and echocardiographic assessment of ventricular performance.

III. Exercise Testing

Exercise testing can include assessment of VO_2 values during maximal effort or at the ventilator anaerobic threshold (VAT). VO_2 max, or maximal oxygen consumption, refers to the maximum
35 amount of oxygen that an individual can utilize during intense exercise. This measurement is generally considered a reliable indicator of cardiovascular fitness and aerobic endurance. The more oxygen a person can use during high level exercise, the more energy that person can produce. This test has been the standard for cardiorespiratory fitness because muscles need oxygen for prolonged

5 (aerobic) exercise; blood carries oxygen to the muscles and the heart must pump adequate amounts of blood to meet the demands of aerobic exercise.

VO₂ is often measured by putting a mask on a subject, and measuring the volume and gas concentrations of inhaled and expired air. This measurement is often used in both clinical settings and research and is considered the most accurate. Testing commonly involves either exercising on a treadmill or riding a cycle ergometer at increasing intensity until exhaustion, and is designed to provide readings at a maximal effort of the subject and/or at the subject's anaerobic threshold.

SVHD patients, including SVHD patients that have previously undergone a Fontan procedure, will generally see a decline in VO₂ measurements over time. However, when practicing or treating a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, is treated with a method according to the present invention, the VO₂ measurement (i) is maintained at a similar level, demonstrating that there has been no further decline in VO₂ measurement, or (ii) improved with therapy, demonstrating that there has been an increase in VO₂, and/or the rate of decline in VO₂ measurement is reduced, thus, improved, each indicating that the treatments or methods of the present invention are clinically beneficial. In some SVHD patients, treatment in accordance with the present invention may significantly slow or decrease the decline in VO₂ measured during exercise.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving or maintaining VO₂ measurements of a SVHD patient or a subject who has previously had a Fontan procedure. The method of the present invention comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. In some embodiments of the present invention, VO₂ is measured at maximal effort, while in other embodiments, VO₂ is measured at the subject's anaerobic threshold (VAT).

In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention are administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, and result in no decrease, or a minimal decrease, in exercise capacity over time. More specifically, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may result in a decrease in exercise capacity of less than about 40%, less than about 35%, less than about 30%, less than about 25%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, or less than about 5% over time. The time period between a first and second measurement used to calculate the decrease in exercise capacity can be, for example, about 1 month, about 2 months, about 3 months, about 4 months, about 5 months, about 6 months, about 7 months, about 8 months, about 9 months, about 10 months, about 11 months, or about 12 months; about 1 year, about 2 years, about 3 years, about 4 years, about 5 years, about 6 years, about 7 years, about 8 years, about 9 years, about 10 years, about 11 years, about 12 years, about 13 years, about 14 years, or about 15 years, or any combination thereof, e.g., 1 year, 3 months; 4 years, 7 months, etc.

5 In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may be administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, and result in an improvement of exercise capacity. More specifically, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may result in a 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, or 50% or more improvement in VO₂ at maximal effort. Alternatively, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present
10 invention may result in a 1%, 2%, 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 30%, 35%, 40%, 45%, or 50% or more improvement in VO₂ at the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT).

IV. Vascular Function Testing

Vascular endothelial dysfunction is an important outcome for assessing vascular health in intervention
15 studies. It is now well established that vascular endothelial dysfunction is positively associated with traditional cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk factors, and independently predicts cardiovascular events over intervals of 1 to 6 years.

Pulse amplitude tonometry (PAT), a FDA-approved method for assessing vascular function, is increasingly being used as an alternative measure of endothelium-dependent dilation in response to
20 reactive hyperemia and flow-mediated dilation (FMD). The PAT device records digital pulse wave amplitude (PWA) using fingertip plethysmography. PWA can be measured continuously during three phases: a quiet baseline period, 5-min forearm occlusion, and reactive hyperemia following cuff release. Unlike FMD, PAT testing is not dependent upon a highly skilled technician and post-test analysis is largely automated. Most importantly, at least one longitudinal study has shown that PAT
25 measures of endothelial function predict CVD events over a 6-year follow-up period. These significant advantages may make PAT testing suitable for clinical practice if prognostic significance and reliability can be verified.

SVHD patients, including SVHD patients that have previously undergone a Fontan procedure, will generally see a decline in vascular function over time. Treating a SVHD patient, including a Fontan
30 patient, that improves or prevents further decline in vascular function of a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, would indicate that the treatment is clinically beneficial and may improve the SVHD patient's, including the Fontan patient's, quality of life or prevent decline in cardiovascular function.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of improving or maintaining vascular function of SVHD patients, including SVHD patients that have previously undergone a
35 Fontan procedure. The method comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient. In some embodiments, vascular function is measured using a PAT index.

5 In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention are administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, and result in no decrease, or a minimal decrease, in vascular function over time. Vascular function can be measured using any conventional known technique, including but not limited to pulse amplitude tonometry measurements, the natural log of reactive hyperemia index, Reactive Hyperemia Index, Framingham (RHI), area under the curve
10 to max-occlusion/control, average up to max- occlusion/control, and other known EndoPAT indices. In some embodiments of the present invention, vascular function is measured using a PAT index. More specifically, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may result in a decrease in vascular function of less than about 40%, less than about 35%, less than about 30%, less than about 35%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, or less than about 5%
15 over time. The time period between a first and second measurement used to calculate the decrease in vascular function can be, for example, about 1 month, about 2 months, about 3 months, about 4 months, about 5 months, about 6 months, about 7 months, about 8 months, about 9 months, about 10 months, about 11, or about 12 months; about 1 year, about 2 years, about 3 years, about 4 years, about 5 years, about 6 years, about 7 years, about 8 years, about 9 years, about 10 years, about 11 years,
20 about 12 years, about 13 years, about 14 years, or about 15 years, or any combination thereof, e.g., 1 year, 3 months; 4 years, 7 months, etc.

In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may be administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient and result in an improvement of vascular function. Vascular function can be measured using any conventional known technique, including but
25 not limited to pulse amplitude tonometry measurements, the natural log of reactive hyperemia index, Reactive Hyperemia Index, Framingham RHI, area under the curve to max- occlusion/control, average up to max-occlusion/control, and other known EndoPAT indices. In some embodiments of the present invention, vascular function is measured using a PAT index. More specifically, the disclosed methods and compositions may result in about a 1%, about 2%, about 5%, about 10%, about
30 15%, about 20%, about 25%, about 30%, about 35%, about 40%, about 45%, or about 50% or more improvement in one or more measurements of vascular function, including but not limited to pulse amplitude tonometry measurement, the natural log of reactive hyperemia index, Reactive Hyperemia Index, Framingham RHI, area under the curve to max-occlusion/control, average up to max-occlusion/control, and other known EndoPAT indices.

35 **V. Echocardiographic Assessment of Ventricular Performance**

Ventricular performance and cardiac contractility are important measurements that can reveal impairment of cardiovascular health before overt heart failure is present. Ventricular performance can be assessed using echocardiographic methods and quantified via a myocardial performance index or MPI. MPI is an index that combines systolic and diastolic function.

5 Specifically, MPI is defined as the sum of isovolumic contraction time and isovolumic relaxation time divided by the ejection time.

Various versions of MPI are known in the art, and each version of MPI may be used to assess ventricular performance. For instance, MPI indices may include, but are not limited to, blood pool MPI and tissue Doppler MPI. MPI can be measured by using pulsed-wave tissue Doppler
10 echocardiography (TDE). To calculate MPI using TDE, isovolumetric contraction time (IVCT), isovolumetric relaxation time (IVRT) and ejection time (ET) of the functioning single ventricle are measured. MPI is then determined by adding together the IVCT and the IVRT and dividing the sum by ET.

Patients that have previously undergone a Fontan procedure will generally see a decline in ventricular
15 performance over time. Treating a patient such that the patient's ventricular performance is maintained, exhibits minimal decrease over time, or increases indicates that the treatment is clinically beneficial and may improve patient quality of life or prevent decline in cardiovascular function.

In one embodiment, the present invention is directed to a method of maintaining, producing a minimal decrease in, or increasing ventricular performance of a subject who has previously had a Fontan
20 procedure. The method of the present invention comprises administering, preferably daily, an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient. In some embodiments of the present invention, ventricular performance is measured using a myocardial performance index (MPI). In some embodiments, the MPI may be a blood pool MPI, while in other embodiments the MPI may be a tissue Doppler MPI.

25 In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may be administered to a Fontan patient and result in minimal or no decrease in ventricular performance over time. Ventricular performance can be measured using any conventional known technique, including but not limited to myocardial performance index (MPI), blood pool MPI, tissue doppler MPI, average isovolumetric contraction and relaxation, and other known ventricular performance indices. More
30 specifically, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may result in a decrease in ventricular performance of less than about 40%, less than about 35%, less than about 30%, less than about 35%, less than about 20%, less than about 15%, less than about 10%, or less than about 5% over time. The time period between a first and second measurement used to calculate the decrease in ventricular performance can be, for example, about 1 month, about 2 months, about 3 months, about 4
35 months, about 5 months, about 6 months, about 7 months, about 8 months, about 9 months, about 10 months, about 11 months, or about 12 months; about 1 year, about 2 years, about 3 years, about 4 years, about 5 years, about 6 years, about 7 years, about 8 years, about 9 years, about 10 years, about

5 11 years, about 12 years, about 13 years, about 14 years, or about 15 years, or any combination thereof, e.g., 1 year, 3 months; 4 years, 7 months, etc.

In some embodiments, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may be administered to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, and result in an improvement of ventricular performance over time. Ventricular performance can be measured using any conventional
 10 known technique, including but not limited to myocardial performance index (MPI), blood pool MPI, tissue doppler MPI, average isovolumetric contraction and relaxation, and other known ventricular performance indices. For example, the disclosed methods and compositions of the present invention may result in about a 1%, about 2%, about 5%, about 10%, about 15%, about 20%, about 25%, about 30%, about 35%, about 40%, about 45%, or about 50% or more improvement in ventricular
 15 performance, as measured by any known technique, including but not limited to myocardial performance index (MPI), blood pool MPI, tissue doppler MPI, average isovolumetric contraction and relaxation, and other known ventricular performance indices.

VI. Methods According to the Invention

The disclosed methods of the present invention relate to improving exercise and ventricular
 20 performance in a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, and who is in need of improvement in exercise capacity and/or ventricular performance. In general, the methods include administering daily an effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, to improve:

- 25 (a) ventricular performance of the SVHD patient's single functioning ventricle as measured by MPI;
- (b) exercise capacity as measured by oxygen consumption at VAT;
- (c) exercise capacity as measured by oxygen consumption at maximal effort or max VO_2 ;
- (d) work rate at VAT;
- 30 (e) VE/VCO_2 at VAT, each individually or in any combination;
- (f) diastolic blood pressure at rest;
- (g) impaired liver function; and
- (h) oxygen saturation (%) at rest, each individually, collectively or in any combination.

35 Preferably, the methods of the present invention improve (a)-(h) listed above, including individually, collectively or in any combination thereof. More preferably, (a)-(h) listed above, including individually, collectively or in any combination thereof, is improved in accordance with the present

5 invention by administering daily to a SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, an effective amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutical acceptable salt thereof.

As discussed above and used herein, udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effectively inhibits the degradative action of cGMP-specific phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) on cyclic GMP in the smooth muscle cells lining the blood vessels that supply blood to various tissues.

10 As also discussed above and used herein, MPI is a measure of ventricular systolic and diastolic function and a prognostic and progression marker for various heart diseases, as determined by a focused echocardiogram. This numeric value is defined as the sum of isovolumetric contraction time (ICT) and isovolumetric relaxation time (IRT) divided by ejection time (ET) and can be calculated for a single ventricle. The change in the myocardial performance index is determined by velocities
 15 obtained from blood pool Doppler assessment of the inflow and outflow tract of the single functioning ventricle. In other words, MPI is a measure of global systolic and diastolic time intervals to assess global cardiac dysfunction and ventricular performance. Moreover, because the MPI is a Doppler index, it is independent of ventricular geometry and can be applied to either left and right ventricular function, depending upon which ventricle is the single functioning ventricle in the SVHD patients.

20 More specifically, the methods include administering daily an effective amount of an effective PDE5 inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, preferably udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to effect one or more of the above improvements without causing treatment-limiting side effects including, but not limited to, blindness or loss of vision via inhibition of photoreceptor phosphodiesterase enzyme (PDE6), back pain and/or myalgia via inhibition of PDE11,
 25 such as 11A1 (PDE11A1) and/or decrease in sperm concentration via inhibition of PDE11, such as 11A3 (PDE11A3). Kayik, G. *et al.*: Investigation of PDE5/PDE6 and PDE5/PDE11 selective potent tadalafil-like PDE5 inhibitors using combination of molecular modeling approaches, molecular fingerprint-based virtual screening protocols and structure-based pharmacophore development. *Journal of Enzyme Inhibition and Medicinal Chemistry*, 32(1):311-330 (2017); Pomara G. and
 30 Morelli G.: Inhibition of phosphodiesterase 11 (PDE11) impacts on sperm quality. *Int J Impot Res*, 17:385-386 (2005), and Huang S.A. and Lie, J.D.: Phosphodiesterase-5 (PDE5) Inhibitors. In the Management of Erectile Dysfunction. *Pharmacy and Therapeutics*, 38(7):407-419 (July 2013).

Quite uniquely and surprisingly, the methods of the present invention increase and/or maximize oxygen consumption at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT) and at maximum effort or max VO_2
 35 to improve exercise capacity, and increase and/or maximize work rate at VAT and VE/VCO_2 at VAT in SVHD patients, including Fontan patients.

5 Also, quite uniquely and surprisingly, the methods of the present invention improve impaired liver function, as characterized by the ELF score. Generally speaking, the methods of the present invention improve, stabilize/maintain, prevent and/or reduce the rate of decline of impaired liver function, that correlates with an ELF score, for at least 12 months and preferably 18 months. More specifically, the methods of the present invention improve, stabilize/maintain, prevent and/or reduce the rate of decline
10 of fibrotic impaired liver function, transform a fibrotic liver into a less fibrotic liver, maintain fibrotic liver condition, and/or reverse fibrotic liver condition and function in patients who have fibrotic livers, as characterized by an ELF score, for at least 12 months, preferably 18 months, especially in patients having single ventricle heart disease (SVHD), who have undergone Fontan surgery and have Fontan physiology.

15 Also, quite uniquely and surprisingly, the methods of the present invention improve the MPI of the SVHD patients, namely, the Fontan patients. In other words, the methods of the present invention improve both systolic and diastolic function of the single functioning ventricle and the global heart function. In other words, the methods of the present invention improve the filling and emptying characteristics, i.e., the squeezing ability of the single functioning ventricle and the overall ability of
20 the reconstructed abnormal SVHD heart of the SVHD patients, including the Fontan patients, to pump the freshly oxygenated blood to the body for peripheral tissue needs.

The clinical value of the MPI improvement is evidenced by the statistically significant improvement in the MPI in those SVHD patients, and in particular the Fontan patients, who were treated with the methods of the present invention, as compared to those SVHD patients, namely the Fontan patients,
25 who were treated with placebo during the FUEL Trial.

The clinical value of the MPI improvement is also evidenced by the improvement of the single ventricular performance as measured by the isovolumic contraction time, isovolumic relaxation time and ejection time using TDE, as discussed above.

By “isovolumetric contraction time” (IVCT), it is meant herein to mean a single ventricular event that
30 occurs early in systole, during which the single ventricle contracts without volume change (isovolumetrically). This period of the cardiac cycle, the squeeze event, takes place while all heart valves are closed.

By “isovolumic relaxation time” (IVRT), it is meant herein to mean the interval period of the cardiac cycle, i.e., the squeeze and relax cycle, that concerns the second heart sound emanating from the
35 closure of the valve to the onset filling of the functioning single ventricle by following the opening of the valve. The IVRT may indicate diastolic dysfunction of the functioning single ventricle.

5 By “ejection time” (ET), it is meant herein to mean the single ventricular ejection time (UVET) of the reconstructed abnormal heart determined by the opening and closing of the valve during which the pressure differences across the valve are measured.

By “stroke volume,” it is meant herein to mean the amount of freshly oxygenated blood that the single functioning ventricle can pump out into the circulatory system in one contraction.

10 By “cardiac output,” it is meant herein to mean the amount of blood the single functioning ventricle in an SVHD patient, including a Fontan patient, can pump through the circulatory system in one minute. A normal adult has a cardiac output on average of about 4.7 liters (5 quarts) of blood per minute. The stroke volume and the heart rate determine cardiac output.

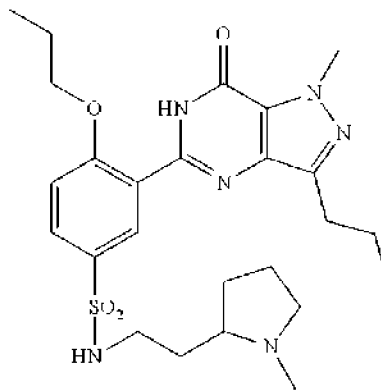
While each of the improvements in the treatment of SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, in
15 accordance with the methods of the present invention are individually unique and surprising, the combination of improvements in the treatment of SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, is especially unique and surprising.

In another embodiment, it was surprising that that the methods of the invention show improved results when udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered as compared to prior
20 very limited studies using a non- udenafil PDE5 inhibitor, such as sildenafil or tadalafil. In yet another embodiment, it was surprising that the methods of the invention show fewer side effects, and/or less severe side effects when udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered, as compared to other prior treatments using a non-udenafil PDE5 inhibitor, such as sildenafil or tadalafil.

In some embodiments, the Fontan patient can be an adult human, whereas in other embodiments, the
25 Fontan patient can be an adolescent human. In some embodiments, the Fontan patient can be between about 12 and about 19 years old, whereas in other embodiments, the Fontan patient can be between about 12 and 18 years old. In yet other embodiments, the Fontan patient can be from about 12 to about 16 years old. In yet other embodiments, the Fontan patient can be from about 6 years old to adult. In one embodiment, the Fontan patient can be less than 18 years old.

30 **VII. Doses and Dosage Forms**

The structure of udenafil is shown below:



5

In some embodiments, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered at total daily dosage amounts of about 0.01 to about 150 mg/kg. In another embodiment, the udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered at total daily doses of about 0.01

10 mg/kg up to about 30 mg/kg. In another embodiment, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered in a dosage amount of from about 2.5 mg to about 275 mg, such as about 2.5 mg, about 5 mg, about 7.5 mg, about 10 mg, about 12.5 mg, about 15 mg, about 17.5 mg, about 20 mg, about 22.5 mg, about 25 mg, about 27.5 mg, about 30 mg, about 32.5, about 35 mg, about 37.5 mg, about 40 mg, about 42.5 mg, about 45 mg, about 47.5 mg, about 50 mg, about 52.5 mg, about 55

15 mg, about 57.5 mg, about 60 mg, about 62.5 mg, about 65 mg, about 67.5 mg, about 70 mg, about 72.5 mg, about 75 mg, about 77.5 mg, about 80 mg, about 82.5 mg, about 85 mg, about 87.5 mg, about 90 mg, about 92.5 mg, about 95 mg, about 97.5 mg, about 100 mg, about 102.5 mg, about 105 mg, about 107.5 mg, about 110 mg, about 112.5 mg, about 115 mg, about 117.5 mg, about 120 mg, about 122.5 mg, about 125 mg, about 127.5 mg, about 130 mg, about 132.5 mg, about 135 mg, about

20 137.5 mg, about 140 mg, about 142.5 mg, about 145 mg, about 147.5 mg, about 150 mg, about 152.5 mg, about 155 mg, about 157.5 mg, about 160 mg, about 162.5 mg, about 165 mg, about 167.5 g, about 170 mg, about 172.5 mg, about 175 mg, about 180 mg, about 182.5 mg, about 185 mg, about 187.5 mg, about 190 mg, about 192.5 mg, about 195 mg, about 197.5 mg, about 200 mg, about 202.5 mg, about 205 mg, about 207.5 mg, about 210 mg, about 212.5 mg, about 215 mg, about 217.5 mg,

25 about 220 mg, about 222.5 mg, about 225 mg, about 227.5 mg, about 230 mg, about 232.5 mg, about 235 mg, about 237.5 mg, about 240 mg, about 242.5 mg, about 245 mg, about 247.5 mg, about 250 mg, about 252.5 mg, about 255 mg, about 257.5 mg, about 260 mg, about 262.5 mg, about 265 mg, about 267.5 mg, about 270 mg, about 272.5 mg or about 275 mg, so long as any such individual dosage amount does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity or treatment-limiting side effects to the

30 extent that the drug product would not be approved for market. In yet another embodiment, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered at total daily doses of from about 5 mg to about 275 mg, such as about 5 mg, about 10 mg, about 15 mg, about 20 mg, about 25 mg, about 27.5 mg, about 30 mg, about 32.5, about 35 mg, about 37.5 mg, about 40 mg, about 42.5 mg, about 45 mg, about 47.5 mg, about 50 mg, about 55 mg, about 60 mg, about 65 mg, about 70 mg, about 75 mg,

5 about 80 mg, about 85 mg, about 87.5 mg, about 90 mg, about 95 mg, about 100 mg, about 125 mg, about 150 mg, about 175 mg, including from about 125 mg to about 175 mg, about 200 mg, about 225 mg, about 250 mg, or about 275 mg, so long as any such individual total daily dose does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that the total daily dose would not be approved for market.

10 In still another embodiment, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered in total daily doses of from about 25 mg to about 700 mg, such as about 25 mg, about 37.5 mg, about 50 mg, about 75 mg, about 87.5 mg, 125 mg, about 175 mg, about 200 mg, about 225 mg, about 250 mg, about 275 mg, about 300 mg, about 325 mg, about 350 mg, about 375 mg, about 400 mg, about 425 mg, about 450 mg, about 475 mg, about 500 mg, about 525 mg, about 550 mg,
15 about 575 mg, about 600 mg, about 625 mg, about 650 mg, about 675 mg, or about 700 mg, so long as any such individual total daily dose does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that the total daily dose would not be approved for market.

In a further embodiment, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered at a total daily dose of about 37.5 mg, about 75 mg, about 87.5 mg, 125 mg, or about 175 mg. In a
20 further embodiment, udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered at a total daily dose range of from about 37.5 mg to about 175 mg, preferably, a total daily dose range of from 75 mg to about 175 mg, more preferably, a total daily dose range of from about 87.5 mg to about 175 mg and, most preferably, a total daily dose range of from 125 mg to about 175 mg. In a preferred embodiment, udenafil or any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered
25 to a Fontan patient in any effective dosage amount or in any effective total daily dose, so long as any selected individual dosage amount or any selected individual total daily dose does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that the total daily dose would not be approved for market.

Thus, the present invention contemplates administration of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable
30 salt thereof to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients, at any dosage amount, at any total daily dose, at any treatment regimen and in any dosage form, so long as when any such dosage amount, total daily dose, treatment regimen or dosage form is selected, it does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that such would not be approved for market. In particular, the present invention contemplates administration of udenafil or a pharmaceutically
35 acceptable salt thereof in an effective amount to SVHD patients, including Fontan patients to improve MPI, single ventricular performance, systolic and/or diastolic function, ventricular squeeze capability, cardiac output, exercise capacity or performance at VAT and/or max VO_2 , work rate at VAT, VE/ CO_2 at VAT, diastolic blood pressure at rest, oxygen saturation (%) at rest and/or decrease the rate of decline of progression of SVHD, as compared to untreated SVHD patients, so long as the

5 therapeutically effective amount does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity, treatment limiting side effects associated with inhibition of PDE6 and/or PDE11, and/or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that the drug product would not be approved for market or requires discontinued use.

The present invention also contemplates the administration of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, preferably orally, in an effective amount to SVHD patients, including Fontan
10 patients to improve impaired fibrotic liver function, as characterized by an ELF score for at least 12 months and preferably for at least 18 months, as compared to untreated patients including SVHD patients, so long as the therapeutically effective amount does not cause treatment-limiting toxicity, treatment limiting side effects associated with inhibition of PDE6 and/or PDE11, and/or treatment-limiting side effects to the extent that the drug product would not be approved for market or requires
15 discontinued use.

In one embodiment, the udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered once a day.

In another embodiment, the udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered once daily or in divided multiple dosages, such as twice a day, three times a day, four times a day or
20 more.

In yet another embodiment, the udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered twice a day such that therapeutically effective blood levels are maintained for at least about 1.5 hours to about 24 hours, more particularly at least about 1.5 hours, about 2 hours, about 3 hours, about 4 hours, about 5 hours, about 6 hours, about 7 hours, about 8 hours, about 9 hours, about
25 10 hours, about 11 hours, about 12 hours, about 13 hours, about 14 hours, about 15 hours, about 16 hours, about 17 hours, about 18 hours, about 19 hours, about 20 hours, about 21 hours, about 22 hours, about 23 hours or about 24 hours of a 24 hour dosing period. Thus, the present invention therefore contemplates udenafil and/or any udenafil active metabolite, such as DA8164 active metabolite, maintaining an effective blood level for any period of time within a 24 hour dosing period.

30 In some embodiments, the total daily dosage amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt administered twice a day can be less than the total daily dosage amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof administered once a day.

In some embodiments, the total daily dosage amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof administered twice a day, can maintain therapeutically effective blood levels for the same
35 number of hours in a 24 hour period as a higher dosage of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof when administered once a day. In other embodiments, the total daily dosage amount of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof administered twice a day, can maintain

5 therapeutically effective blood levels for a higher number of hours in a 24 hour period as the same dosage of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof when administered once a day. Thus, the present invention contemplates administration of any total daily dosage amount of udenafil or any acceptable salt thereof once daily or in divided doses multiple times a day, such as twice daily, three times daily, four times daily or more, to maintain therapeutically effective blood levels throughout a
10 24 hour period.

In one embodiment, it is surprising that the administration of twice a day udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof results in fewer side effects than the administration of once a day udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. In another embodiment, it is surprising that twice a day administration of udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can achieve
15 therapeutically effective levels of udenafil at a lower total daily dosage than a once a day administration.

In some embodiments, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of udenafil can be an acid addition salt. In one embodiment, the acid addition salt of udenafil can be an inorganic acid addition salt such as, hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulfuric, or phosphoric acid addition salt. In another embodiment, the acid
20 addition salt can be an organic acid addition salt such as citrate, tartarate, acetate, lactate, maleate, fumarate, gluconate, methanesulfonate (mesylate), glycolate, succinate, p-toluenesulfonate (tosylate), galacturonate, embonate, glutamate, aspartate, oxalate, benzensulfonate, camphorsulfonate, cinnamate, adipate, or cyclamate. In a particular embodiment, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of udenafil can be an oxalate, benzensulfonate, camphorsulfonate, cinnamate, adipate, or cyclamate salt.

25 In some embodiments, the udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be administered as a pharmaceutical composition. In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be formulated in a wide variety of oral or parenteral dosage forms on clinical application. Each of the dosage forms can contain various disintegrating agents, surfactants, fillers, thickeners, binders, diluents such as wetting agents or other
30 pharmaceutically acceptable excipients.

The udenafil composition can be administered using any pharmaceutically acceptable method, such as intranasal, buccal, sublingual, oral, rectal, ocular, parenteral (intravenously, intradermally, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, intracisternally, intraperitoneally), pulmonary, intravaginal, locally administered, topically administered, topically administered after scarification, mucosally
35 administered, via an aerosol, or via a buccal or nasal gel or spray formulation.

Further, the udenafil composition can be formulated into any pharmaceutically acceptable dosage form, such as a solid dosage form, including but not limited to a tablet, pill, lozenge, capsule, caplet,

5 orally-disintegrating dosage form, sublingual dosage form, buccal dosage form, liquid, liquid dispersion, liquid suspension, solution, aerosol, pulmonary aerosol, nasal aerosol and semi-solid, namely, ointment, cream, thin film, and gel, and patches such as transdermal patches. Further, the composition may be a controlled release formulation, sustained release formulation, immediate release formulation, modified release formulation or any combination thereof.

10 Further, the composition may be a transdermal delivery system.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be formulated into a solid dosage form for oral administration, and the solid dosage form can be powders, granules, capsules, tablets, caplets, caches, orally-disintegrating dosage forms, sublingual dosage forms, buccal dosage forms, lozenges or pills. In yet another
15 embodiment, the solid dosage form can include one or more excipients such as calcium carbonate, starch, sucrose, lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or gelatin. In addition, the solid dosage form can include, in addition to the excipients, a lubricant such as talc or magnesium stearate. In some embodiments, the oral dosage form can be immediate release, or a modified release form. Modified release dosage forms include controlled, sustained, modified or extended release, enteric release, and
20 the like. The excipients used in the modified release dosage forms are commonly known to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

For example, a solid carrier may be one or more substance that may also act as diluents, flavoring agents, binders, preservatives, oral dosage form disintegrating agents, or an encapsulating material. The oral dosage forms, such as powders, granules, capsules, tablets, caplets, caches, lozenges or pills,
25 preferably contain from 5% to 70% of the udenafil. Suitable carriers are magnesium carbonate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugar, lactose (e.g., lactose monohydrate), pectin, dextrin, starch (e.g., corn starch), gelatin, tragacanth, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose, silicon dioxide (e.g., colloidal silicon dioxide), a low melting wax, cocoa butter, and the like. The term "preparation" is intended to include the formulation of the
30 udenafil solid, liquid or semi-solid matrix with or without encapsulating material.

Liquid form preparations include solutions, suspensions and emulsions, for example, water or water/propylene glycol solutions. For parenteral injection, liquid preparations can be formulated in solution in aqueous polyethylene glycol solution. For example, aqueous solutions suitable for oral use can be prepared by dissolving the udenafil in water and adding suitable colorants, flavors, stabilizers,
35 and thickening agents as desired. In another example, aqueous suspensions suitable for oral use can be made by dispersing the finely divided udenafil in water with viscous material, such as natural or synthetic gums, resins, methylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and other well-known suspending agents.

5 Also included are solid form preparations that are intended to be converted, shortly before use, to liquid form preparations for oral administration. Such liquid forms include solutions, suspensions, and emulsions. In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated in a liquid dosage form for oral administration, such as suspensions, emulsions or syrups, which may contain, in addition to the udenafil, colorants, flavors, stabilizers, buffers (e.g., buffers to adjust the pH to a
10 desirable range for intravenous use such as salts of inorganic acids such as phosphate, borate, and sulfate), artificial and natural sweeteners, dispersants, thickeners, solubilizing agents, and the like. In other embodiments, the liquid dosage form can include, in addition to commonly used simple diluents such as water and liquid paraffin, various excipients such as humectants, sweeteners, aromatics or preservatives. In particular embodiments, the composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically
15 acceptable salt thereof can be formulated to be suitable for administration to a pediatric patient.

In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated in a dosage form for parenteral administration, such as sterile aqueous solutions, suspensions, emulsions or nonaqueous solutions. In other embodiments, the non-aqueous solutions or suspensions can include propyleneglycol, polyethyleneglycol, vegetable oils such as olive oil or injectable esters such as ethyl
20 oleate. Alternatively, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated in a dosage form for rectal or vaginal administration. As a base for suppositories, witepsol, macrogol, tween 61, cacao oil, laurin oil or glycerinated gelatin can be used.

The pharmaceutical preparation may require a surfactant or other appropriate co-solvent in the composition. Such co-solvents include: Polysorbate 20, 60, and 80; Pluronic F-68, F-84, and P103; cyclodextrin; and polyoxyl 35 castor oil. Such co-solvents are typically employed at a level between
25 about 0.01 % and about 2% by weight. Viscosity greater than that of simple aqueous solutions may be desirable to decrease variability in dispensing the formulations, to decrease physical separation of components of a suspension or emulsion of formulation, and/or otherwise to improve the formulation. Such viscosity building agents include, for example, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl pyrrolidone,
30 methylcellulose, hydroxy propyl methylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl cellulose, hydroxy propyl cellulose, chondroitin sulfate and salts thereof, hyaluronic acid and salts thereof, and combinations of the foregoing. Such agents are typically employed at a level between about 0.01% and about 2% by weight.

The pharmaceutical preparation is preferably in unit dosage form. In such form the preparation is subdivided into unit doses containing appropriate quantities of the udenafil or any acceptable
35 pharmaceutical salt thereof. The unit dosage form can be a packaged preparation, such as a sachet, the package containing discrete quantities of preparation, such as packeted tablets, caplets, capsules, orally-disintegrating dosage forms, sublingual dosage forms, buccal dosage forms and powders in vials or ampoules. Also, the unit dosage form can be a capsule, tablet, caplets, pills, orally-

- 5 disintegrating dosage forms, sublingual dosage forms, buccal dosage forms, cachet, or lozenge itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any of these in packaged form.

The pharmaceutical compositions may include components to provide immediate release, sustained release, extended release, modified release, convenience and/or comfort. Such components include high molecular weight, anionic mucomimetic polymers, gelling polysaccharides, and finely-divided
10 drug carrier substrates.

In a further embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be formulated as an orally-disintegrating, sublingual or buccal dosage form. Such dosage forms comprise sublingual tablets or solution compositions that are administered under the tongue and buccal tablets that are placed between the cheek and gum.

- 15 The pharmaceutical preparation may be prepared by further containing a coating agent for example, the light shielding agent capable of generating free radical by UV light, metal oxides such as titanium oxide and the like are described, and as the free radical scavenger, for example, organic acids such as benzoic acid and the like. In addition, the coating agent may further include, but not be limited to, an
20 water-soluble polymer (e.g., hypromellose or hydroxypropyl cellulose,), an enteric coating layer containing polyethylene glycol, triethyl citrate, cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid copolymers, shellac, cellulose acetate succinate, cellulose acetate trimellitate, hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose phthalate, zein, sodium alginate, and mannitol, and/or enteric coating aqueous solution
25 including, for example, ethylcellulose, medium chain triglycerides, oleic acid, sodium alginate, stearic acid.

In yet a further embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof can be formulated as a nasal dosage form. Such dosage forms of the present invention comprise solution, suspension, emulsion, and gel compositions for nasal delivery.

- 30 In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition can be formulated in a liquid dosage form for oral administration, such as solutions, suspensions, emulsions or syrups. In other embodiments, the liquid dosage form can include, in addition to commonly used simple diluents such as water and liquid paraffin, various excipients such as humectants, sweeteners, aromatics or preservatives. In particular embodiments, the composition comprising udenafil or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
35 thereof can be formulated to be suitable for administration to a pediatric patient.

The dosage of the pharmaceutical composition can vary depending on the patient's weight, age, gender, administration time and mode, excretion rate, and the severity of disease.

5 **VIII. Exercise Testing**

Exercise testing can include assessment of VO_2 values during maximal effort or at ventilator anaerobic threshold (“VAT”). VO_2 max (“peak VO_2 ”), or maximal (“peak”) oxygen consumption, refers to the maximum amount of oxygen that an individual can utilize during intense exercise. This measurement is generally considered a reliable indicator of cardiovascular fitness and aerobic

10 endurance. Theoretically, the more oxygen a person can use during exercise, the more energy that person can produce. This test is often used for cardiorespiratory fitness because muscles need oxygen for prolonged (aerobic) exercise; blood carries oxygen to the muscles and the heart must pump adequate amounts of blood to meet the demands of aerobic exercise. However, while peak VO_2 may be useful as a surrogate for many cardiovascular disease states, it may not be as relevant an endpoint

15 after the Fontan operation. In this unique physiology, central venous pressure, rather than right ventricular contraction (pumping), is the primary driver of transpulmonary blood flow and, therefore, cardiac output. Gewillig M and Goldberg DJ. Failure of the fontan circulation. *Heart Fail Clin.* 10(1):105-116 (Jan 2014); Egbe AC, Connolly HM, Miranda WR, Ammash NM, Hagler DJ, Veldtman GR and Borlaug BA. Hemodynamics of Fontan Failure: The Role of Pulmonary Vascular

20 Disease. *Circ Heart Fail.* 10(12): e004515 (Sept. 2017); Gewillig M, Brown SC, Eyskens B, Heying R, Ganame J, Budts W, La Gerche A and Gorenflo M. The Fontan circulation: who controls cardiac output? *Interact Cardiovasc Thorac Surg.* 10(3):428-433 (Mar 2010); and Goldberg DJ, Avitabile CM, McBride MG and Paridon SM. Exercise capacity in the Fontan circulation. *Cardiol Young.* 23(6):824-830 (Dec 2013). As the demand for cardiac output increases with exertion, central venous pressure in

25 the Fontan circulation must rise to meet that demand, but eventually reaches a critical ceiling beyond which it can rise no further. Navaratnam D, Fitzsimmons S, Grocott M, Rossiter HB, Emmanuel Y, Diller GP, Gordon-Walker T, Jack S, Sheron N, Pappachan J, Pratap JN, Vettukattil JJ and Veldtman G. Exercise-Induced Systemic Venous Hypertension in the Fontan Circulation. *Am J Cardiol.* 117(10):1667-1671 (May 15, 2016). At submaximal exertion, the elevation in central venous pressure

30 does not reach this physiologic ceiling and thus outcomes at this level of exercise may be more sensitive to pharmacologic manipulation of the pulmonary vasculature.

VO_2 is often measured by putting a mask on a subject, and measuring the volume and gas concentrations of inhaled and expired air. This measurement is often used in both clinical settings and research and has been considered the most accurate. Testing commonly involves either exercising on

35 a treadmill or riding a cycle ergometer at increasing intensity until exhaustion, and is designed to provide readings at a maximal effort of the subject and/or at the subject’s anaerobic threshold.

Patients that have previously undergone a Fontan procedure will generally see a decline in VO_2 measurements over time. Treating a patient with methods disclosed herein such that the patient’s VO_2 measurement is either maintained at a similar level, demonstrating that there has been no further

- 5 decline in VO₂ function, or improved with therapy indicates that the treatment is clinically beneficial and may improve cardiovascular function or prevent or slow the rate of decline in cardiovascular function.

IX. Myocardial Performance Index (MPI)

- Generally speaking, MPI (also referred to as the Doppler-derived index or Tei Index) is a measure of
 10 ventricular systolic and diastolic function as determined by a focused echocardiogram. It combines systolic and diastolic time intervals to assess heart function. More specifically, MPI can be used to assess ventricular performance represented by a numeric value using cardiac time intervals. This numeric value equals the sum of isovolumetric contraction time (ICT) and isovolumetric relaxation time (IRT) divided by ejection time (ET) and can be determined for either the left or right ventricle.
- 15 Pellett, A.A., et al.: The Tei Index: Methodology and Disease State Values. *Echocardiography: A Jnl. of CV Ultrasound & Allied Tech.* 21(7):669-672 (2004); and Uluçay, A., Tatli E.: Myocardial performance index. *Anadolu Kardiyol Derg.* 8(2):143-8 (April, 2008), both of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties. In the FUEL Trial, the MPI measured the performance of the single functioning ventricle. Thus, the MPI results from the FUEL Trial were determined by velocities
 20 obtained from blood pool Doppler assessment of the inflow and outflow tract of the functioning single ventricle. In other words, the FUEL Trial MPI was determined by measuring the cardiac time intervals using pulsed-wave Doppler velocity spectra of the ventricular inflow and outflow of the single functioning ventricle.

X. Echocardiogram Testing

- 25 Echocardiograms were performed by sonographers with specific training for this protocol. The primary outcome of interest was MPI using Doppler-based measures of inflow and outflow duration. The duration of inflow into the dominant ventricle and outflow across the dominant semilunar valve were measured and used to calculate MPI using the standard formula. Tei C, Ling LH, Hodge DO, *et al.*: New index of combined systolic and diastolic myocardial performance: a simple and reproducible
 30 measure of cardiac function-a study in normal and dilated cardiomyopathy. *J Cardiol*, 26(6):357-66 (1995); and Pellet AA *et al.*: The Tei Index: Methodology and Disease State Values. *Echocardiography: A Jnl Of CV Ultrasound & Allied Tech*, 21(7):669-672 (2004). Additional tissue Doppler images were obtained and used to calculate the tissue Doppler based MPI as previously described. Harada K, Tamura M, Toyono M *et al.*: Comparison of the right ventricular Tei index by
 35 tissue Doppler imaging to that obtained by pulsed Doppler in children without heart disease. *Am J Cardiol*, 90(5):566-9 (2002). Whenever possible, three measurements were made and the mean duration was used for the calculation.

5 **XI. Treatment of Fibrotic Impaired Liver Function.**

The methods of the present invention include methods of treating a patient, including SVHD and Fontan patients, having impaired liver function characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for improving or maintaining the function of the impaired liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form
10 an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score from 9.9 to 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score from 7.7 to 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below
15 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to improve, maintain, or reduce or slow the rate of decline of the patient's liver function, said method comprising orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for improving, maintaining or reducing or
20 slowing the rate of decline of the liver function of the patient's impaired liver.

Preferably, the patients' impaired, fibrotic livers are improved in their function as reflected in the ELF scores by one, two or even three levels of decreased fibrosis as described above. For example, preferably patients whose ELF scores initially categorize the liver as cirrhotic, upon treatment in accordance with the present invention, may improve to either severe fibrosis or moderate fibrosis or
25 even weak or no fibrosis as indicated by the ELF scores.

Preferably, the patients' impaired fibrotic livers, which are maintained against further fibrosis, for example, those patients' livers which are maintained in a fibrosis-free or mild fibrosis state, as measured according to the ELF score, without progressing to moderate liver fibrosis or severe liver fibrosis or cirrhosis, are maintained at the less fibrotic state for at least one year, more preferably, for
30 at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having moderate liver fibrosis, as indicated by the ELF score, is maintained at that level and do not progress to severe fibrosis or cirrhosis, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having severe fibrosis are maintained without progressing to cirrhosis, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months.

35 Preferably, the patients' impaired fibrotic livers, which impaired liver function is improved, for example, those patients' impaired livers which are in a sclerosis state are improved to a severe fibrotic, a moderate fibrotic, and/or a mild fibrotic or a fibrosis-free state, as measured according to the ELF score, are maintained at the less fibrotic state for at least one year, more preferably, for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having impaired liver function at severe liver fibrosis level, as indicated

5 by the ELF score, are converted to a level of moderate fibrosis and/or mild fibrosis or no-fibrosis state, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months. Similarly, patients having moderate fibrosis are converted to a mild fibrosis or fibrosis-free state, as indicated by the ELF score, for at least one year, preferably for at least 18 months.

10 The results of the FALD trial showed beneficial treatment of fibrotic impaired liver patients. Table A shows the average change and average percent change of the Enhanced Liver Fibrosis Score (ELF) from baseline of the patients in the FUEL/FALD test.

As noted above, the U+ cohort had been treated with udenafil for 18 months. For the U+ cohort, the average ELF score at baseline (n=36) was 10.5, and the average ELF score at week 52 (n=32) was 9.7, an average improvement of approximately 8% (p=0.0001).

15 As noted above, the U- cohort started treatment with udenafil at the same time they started the FALD test, and thus had been treated with udenafil for only a year at the time of the one year sampling. For the U- cohort, the average ELF score at baseline (n=49) was 10.3, and the average ELF score at week 52 (n=41) was 9.8, and the cohort U- experienced an average improvement of about 5.9% (based on paired data). About 75% of the U- cohort patients had improved ELF scores.

20 The results of the Fibrosis categorization tests are presented for cohorts U+ and U- and combined cohorts in **Table B**.

As noted above, the U+ cohort had been treated with udenafil for 18 months. Reviewing the results for cohort U+ in **Table B**, line 3, at the start of the analysis, there were 8 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having moderate fibrosis (N=8). At the one year sampling post 6
25 months of earlier udenafil treatment, those 8 patients had been maintained in the moderate fibrosis category. At the start of the analysis there were 15 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having severe fibrosis. At the one year sampling post 6 months of earlier udenafil treatment, 5 of those 15 patients had been maintained in the severe fibrosis category, and 10 of those patients had been improved to the moderate category. At the start of the analysis, there were 9
30 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having cirrhotic level of fibrosis. At the one year sampling post 6 months of earlier udenafil treatment, 7 of those 9 patients had been improved to be categorized in the severe fibrosis category, and 2 of the 9 were shown to have improved to meet the moderate fibrosis category.

As noted above, the U- cohort started treatment with udenafil at the same time they started the FALD
35 test, and thus had been treated with udenafil for only a year at the time of the one year sampling. Reviewing the results for cohort U-, at the start of the analysis, there were 12 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having moderate fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 8 of those

5 patients had progressed to the severe fibrosis category. However, 3 of the patients had been maintained in the moderate fibrosis category, and 1 of the patients had actually been improved to meet the ELF mild fibrosis category. At the start of the analysis, there were 21 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having severe fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 8 of those 21 patients had been maintained in the severe fibrosis category, and 13 of those patients had been improved to the moderate category. At the start of the analysis, there were 8 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having cirrhotic level of fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 6 of those 8 patients had been improved to be categorized in the severe fibrosis category, and 2 of the 8 were shown to have improved to meet the moderate fibrosis category.

15 Reviewing the results for the combined cohorts, at the start of the analysis, there were 20 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having moderate fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 8 of those patients had progressed to the severe fibrosis category, 11 of the patients had been maintained in the moderate fibrosis category, and the ELF score of 1 of the patients had been shown to improve to meet the mild fibrosis category. At the start of the analysis, there were 21 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having severe fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 8 of those 21 patients had been maintained in the severe fibrosis category, and the ELF scores of 13 of those patients had been improved to the moderate category. At the start of the analysis, there were 8 patients whose ELF scores placed them in the category of having cirrhotic level of fibrosis. At the one year sampling, 6 of those 8 patients had been improved to be categorized in the severe fibrosis category, and 2 of the 8 were shown to have improved to meet the moderate fibrosis category.

25 The methods may be further understood with the following non-limiting examples.

EXAMPLE 1

The Fontan Udenafil Exercise Longitudinal (FUEL) Trial

30 The FUEL Trial was conducted at 30 centers around the world. The FUEL Trial was a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of udenafil in adolescents with SVHD who had undergone Fontan palliation.

The primary aim was to determine the effect of udenafil on exercise capacity in adolescents with Fontan physiology over a six-month period. The primary outcome was the change in oxygen consumption at peak exercise (max or peak VO_2) from baseline to the 26-week visit. Secondary exercise outcomes included change in additional measures at maximal exertion, as well as change in measures of submaximal exercise at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT). The primary outcome for clinical secondary aims included change in myocardial performance index (MPI), an echocardiographically-derived measure of systolic and diastolic ventricular function, change in log-

transformed reactive hyperemia index (lnRHI), a PAT-derived measure of peripheral vascular function, and change in log-transformed serum BNP level. Safety was monitored through adverse event reports, which were collected according to a pre-specified protocol of study coordinator outreach, and through *ad hoc* patient and family communication with members of the study team at each site.

10 **Trial Population**

Individuals between the ages of 12 and 18 years (inclusive) who had undergone the Fontan procedure, who were not receiving treatment with a PDE5 inhibitor, who were ≥ 40 kg, and who met the minimum height requirement for cycle ergometry (≥ 132 cm) were eligible for enrollment. To isolate the effect of udenafil on exercise performance, patients with severe ventricular dysfunction, severe
 15 atrioventricular valve insufficiency, or those with a prior clinical exercise test in which peak oxygen consumption was $< 50\%$ of predicted for age and gender, were excluded. The full list of inclusion and exclusion criteria are listed in **Table 1**.

Table 1

FUEL inclusion and exclusion criteria

20 *Inclusion criteria*

- 1 Males and females with Fontan physiology 12- < 19 y of age at enrollment
- 2 Participant consent or parental/guardian consent with participant assent
- 3 Participant fluent in English, Spanish, or Korean

Exclusion criteria

- 25 1 Weight < 40 kg
- 2 Height < 132 cm
- 3 Hospitalization for acute decompensated heart failure within the last 12 m
- 4 Current intravenous inotropic drugs
- 5 Undergoing evaluation for heart transplantation or listed for transplantation
- 30 6 Diagnosis of active protein-losing enteropathy or plastic bronchitis within the last 3 y, oral history of liver cirrhosis
- 7 Known Fontan baffle obstruction, branch pulmonary artery stenosis, or pulmonary vein stenosis resulting in a mean gradient of > 4 mm Hg between the regions proximal and distal to the obstruction as measured by either
- 35 catheterization or echocardiography, obtained prior to screening for the trial
- 8 Single lung physiology with greater than flow to 1 lung
- 9 VO₂ max less than 50% of predicted for age and gender at enrollment
- 10 Severe ventricular dysfunction assessed qualitatively by clinical echocardiography within 6 m prior to enrollment

- 5 11 Severe valve regurgitation, ventricular outflow obstruction, or aortic arch
obstruction assessed by clinical echocardiography within 6 m prior to enrollment
- 12 Significant renal (serum creatinine >2.0), hepatic (serum AST and/or ALT >3
times upper limit of normal), gastrointestinal, or biliary disorders that could
impair absorption, metabolism, or excretion of orally administered medications
10 based on laboratory assessment 6 wk prior to screening for the trial
- 13 Inability to complete exercise testing at baseline screening
- 14 History of PDE-5 inhibitor use Within 3 m before study onset
- 15 History of any other medication for treatment of pulmonary hypertension within
3 m before study onset
- 15 16 Known intolerance to oral udenafil
- 17 Frequent use of medications or other substances that inhibit or induce CYP3A4
- 18 Current use of a-blockers or nitrates
- 19 Ongoing or planned participation in another research protocol that would either
prevent successful I completion of planned study testing or invalidate its results
- 20 20 Noncardiac medical, psychiatric, and/or social disorder that would prevent
successful completion of planned study testing or would invalidate its results
- 21 Cardiac care, ongoing or planned, at a nonstudy center that would impede study
completion
- 22 For females: pregnancy at the time of screening, pregnancy planned before study
25 completion, or refusal to use an acceptable method of contraception for study
duration if sexually active
- 23 Inability to abstain from or limit intake of grapefruit juice during the duration of
the trial
- 24 Refusal to provide written informed consent/assent
- 30 25 In the opinion of the primary care physician, the subject is likely to be
noncompliant with the study protocol

ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; CWUA4, cytochrome
P450 3A4.

35 **Randomization and Study Procedures**

Enrolled participants were assigned to udenafil or placebo in a 1:1 ratio using randomly permuted blocks and stratified by ventricular morphology (left ventricle versus right ventricle or mixed). Randomization assignments were generated by a web-based algorithm after confirmation of trial eligibility and consent.

5 Baseline clinical testing completed before drug initiation included a blood draw to measure brain-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) level, a cardiopulmonary exercise test (CPET) using a standardized cycle ergometer ramp protocol, a standardized echocardiogram, and an assessment of peripheral vascular function using peripheral arterial tonometry (PAT) measured by finger cuff (EndoPAT; Itamar Medical, Israel). Participants who achieved maximal effort, defined as respiratory exchange ratio
10 (RER) ≥ 1.10 at peak exercise during CPET, were eligible for randomization and study drug initiation. Participants who did not achieve maximal effort were given a subsequent opportunity to repeat the exercise test within two weeks of the initial attempt. End-of-study clinical testing included repeat measurement of serum BNP, CPET, echocardiogram, and PAT.

Statistical Analysis

15 A sample size of 200 participants per arm was chosen to allow for 90% power to detect a mean treatment difference in change from baseline to 26-week testing in max VO_2 of 10% with a type 1 error of 0.05. The following assumption were made: a baseline standard deviation of 7.235 ml/kg/min, a correlation between max VO_2 measurements of 0.33, a drop-out and incomplete testing rate of 10%, and failure to reach maximal effort at the 26-week exercise testing in 15% of participants. These
20 assumptions were based on historical data and reflect a conservative approach to assessing within-participant correlations and failure to reach maximal effort.

The primary analysis used the intention-to-treat population to evaluate the difference in the change in the primary outcome between treatment arms. This difference was assessed with an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) with fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right
25 or mixed) and treatment group, with a continuous covariate of baseline max VO_2 . For those without data at the 26-week visit, this value was imputed as equal to the baseline value (no change). Secondary analyses included participants who successfully completed the protocol with measurable values at each of the secondary endpoints. Secondary outcomes of continuous data points were analyzed in the manner described for the primary outcome. In order to assess the generalizability of
30 findings at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold, demographic and clinical characteristics were compared between participants without paired VO_2 at VAT data and those comprising the remainder of the cohort.

Trial Results

From July 2016 to May 2018, 1376 patients at 30 centers were screened. **FIG. 1B.** Of these, 200 were
35 randomly assigned to udenafil and 200 to placebo. Mean age at randomization was 15.5 years, mean height was 163.6 cm, and mean weight was 58.1 kg. Sixty percent of participants were male and 81% described their racial identity as white. Those in the placebo group were taller, compared to those in the udenafil group, but baseline characteristics were otherwise similar between groups.

5 **Primary Aim - Exercise Measures**

Maximal exercise data (VO₂ max) were available for all participants at baseline testing, and for 379 participants at 26-week testing (189 in the udenafil group and 190 in the placebo group).

Reasons for absence of data at 26-week testing included patient dropout or errors in data capture (n=14), and participant inability to generate an RER ≥ 1.10 (n=7). There was no difference in the change from baseline to 26-week testing in resting heart rate, respiratory rate, or systolic blood pressure between the udenafil and placebo groups. There was a small but statistically significant increase in resting oxygen saturation and a small but statistically significant decrease in diastolic blood pressure in the udenafil group.

Resting data and exercise performance results are provided in **Table 2**.

Table 2: Resting Data and Exercise performance with comparison based on treatment arm. Summaries presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation (n)*.

	Udenafil			Placebo			<i>P</i> value
<i>Resting data</i>	Baseline	26-week	Change	Baseline	26-week	Change	
Heart rate (bpm)	87.5 $\pm$ 15.3 (200)	86.6 $\pm$ 15.4 (191)	-0.9$\pm$12.7 (191)	88.1 $\pm$ 14.1 (200)	87.4 $\pm$ 16.1 (195)	-0.6$\pm$12.7 (195)	0.78
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)	112.3 $\pm$ 12.1 (200)	110.5 $\pm$ 12.0 (191)	-1.8$\pm$12.2 (191)	113.2 $\pm$ 12.9 (200)	112.8 $\pm$ 11.6 (195)	-0.2$\pm$12.2 (195)	0.18
Diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)	68.4 $\pm$ 9.5 (200)	65.3 $\pm$ 9.9 (191)	-2.9$\pm$9.7 (191)	69.3 $\pm$ 10.1 (200)	69.4 $\pm$ 9.1 (195)	0.2$\pm$10.7 (195)	0.003
Oxygen saturation (%)	92.8 $\pm$ 3.9 (200)	93.3 $\pm$ 3.5 (191)	0.5$\pm$2.4 (191)	93.2 $\pm$ 3.8 (200)	92.9 $\pm$ 3.7 (195)	-0.3$\pm$2.8 (195)	0.002
<i>Peak exercise</i>							
Oxygen consumption (mL/min)*	1562 $\pm$ 437 (200)	1606 $\pm$ 452 (200)	44$\pm$245 (200)	1627 $\pm$ 414 (200)	1623 $\pm$ 432 (200)	-3.7$\pm$228 (200)	0.071
Work rate (W)	120 $\pm$ 32 (198)	124 $\pm$ 32 (187)	3.2$\pm$14 (186)	123 $\pm$ 32 (199)	127 $\pm$ 32 (189)	2.6$\pm$14 (188)	0.85
Heart rate (bpm)	165 $\pm$ 20 (200)	165 $\pm$ 20 (189)	-1.4$\pm$11 (189)	168 $\pm$ 22 (199)	166 $\pm$ 21 (190)	-2.5$\pm$13 (189)	0.56
Respiratory rate (breaths/min)	51 $\pm$ 11 (199)	50 $\pm$ 12 (188)	-1.1$\pm$10 (187)	51 $\pm$ 13 (200)	50 $\pm$ 12 (189)	-1.5$\pm$10 (189)	0.72
Minute ventilation (L/min)	71 $\pm$ 21 (199)	73 $\pm$ 22 (189)	1.2$\pm$14 (188)	76 $\pm$ 22 (200)	76 $\pm$ 21 (190)	-0.1$\pm$14 (190)	0.84
Oxygen saturation (%)	89.2 $\pm$ 5.3 (195)	89.6 $\pm$ 4.9 (190)	0.4$\pm$3.4 (186)	89.8 $\pm$ 5.0 (197)	89.7 $\pm$ 5.0 (192)	-0.1$\pm$3.4 (190)	0.21
<i>Anaerobic Threshold</i>							
Oxygen consumption (mL/min)	1039 $\pm$ 301 (170)	1059 $\pm$ 292 (185)	29.7$\pm$177 (170)	1021 $\pm$ 280 (181)	1014 $\pm$ 277 (191)	-8.0$\pm$183 (181)	0.023
Work (W)	66.2 $\pm$ 26 (167)	69.2 $\pm$ 26 (181)	3.5$\pm$15 (167)	66.1 $\pm$ 23 (177)	66.6 $\pm$ 23 (186)	0.31$\pm$13.3 (177)	0.029
VE/VCO2	34.3 $\pm$ 4.9 (170)	33.6 $\pm$ 4.8 (185)	-0.76$\pm$3.6 (155)	34.8 $\pm$ 5.2 (181)	34.7 $\pm$ 4.9 (191)	-0.06$\pm$3.1 (162)	0.011

5 Analysis at resting of the diastolic blood pressure demonstrated a statistically significant change (a decrease shows improvement) in diastolic blood pressure in the udenafil group (-2.9 decrease, improvement) compared to the placebo group (+0.2 increase, no improvement) ($p=0.003$).

Analysis at resting of the oxygen saturation (%) demonstrated a statistically significant change (an increase shows improvement) in oxygen saturation (%) in the udenafil group (+0.5 increase, improvement) compared to the placebo group (-0.3 decrease, no improvement) ($p=0.002$).

Analysis at maximal exercise demonstrated an increase in VO_2 max of 44 mL/min (2.8%) in the udenafil group compared to a decline of 3.7 mL/min (-0.2%) in the placebo group, although the difference did not reach statistical significance ($p=0.071$).

Further, metabolic data for the calculation of VO_2 at VAT were available for 317 participants; 170 in the udenafil group and 181 in the placebo group, as shown in **Table 2** above. There was no difference in the baseline demographic or clinical characteristics of this subgroup compared to the larger cohort. For those with paired VO_2 at VAT data, there was a statistically significant improvement of 30 mL/min (1.92%) in the udenafil group compared to a decrease of 8 mL/min (-0.7%) in the placebo group ($p=0.023$). Ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide measured at VAT (VE/VCO_2) significantly decreased (improved ventilatory efficiency) by 0.8 (2.1%) in the udenafil group compared to 0.05 (0.2%) in the placebo group ($p=0.011$), while the work rate significantly improved by 3.5 Watts (5.5%) in the udenafil group compared to 0.31 Watts (0.78%) in the placebo group ($p=0.029$). Thus, treatment of Fontan patients with 87.5 mg, twice daily, demonstrated statistically significant improvements in multiple measures of exercise performance at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold.

Secondary Aims Measures

Paired echocardiographic data for the measure of MPI were available in 250 participants (63%); 122 in the udenafil group and 128 in the placebo group. **Table 3**. There was a statistically significant change (a decrease shows improvement) in MPI in the udenafil treated group (-0.02 decrease, improvement) as compared to the placebo group +0.01 increase, no improvement) ($p=0.028$).

Paired PAT-derived vascular function data were available in 328 participants (81%); 163 in the udenafil group and 165 in the placebo group. There were non-significant improvements in lnRHI in both the udenafil and placebo groups (0.07 vs 0.05, $p=0.59$). Paired measures of serum BNP level were available in 378 participants (95%); 187 in the udenafil group and 191 in the placebo group. The change in log serum BNP level was not different between groups ($p=0.18$). The paired echocardiographic data, the paired PAT-derived vascular function data, and the paired measure of serum BNP level is provided in **Table 3**.

5

Table 3: Secondary Outcomes with Comparison Based on Treatment Arm

Endocardiography				
Myocardial Performance Index (MPI) by Visit and Treatment Arm Difference Between Week 26 and Baseline Visits (ITT Population)				
	Udenafil	Placebo	LS Mean Dif A-B(SE)***	P-Value
Baseline, N: Mean (SD)	150: 0.45 (0.173)	155: 0.45 (0.156)	-0.0 (0.018)	0.818*
Week 26, N: Mean (SD)	146: 0.42 (0.147)	148: 0.46 (0.177)	-0.04 (0.018)	0.024*
Difference, Week 26- Baseline N: Mean (SD)	122: -0.02 (0.113)	128: 0.01 (0.133)	-0.03 (0.014)	0.028**
Median (Interquartile Range) of the difference	-0.01 (-0.11, 0.05)	0.01 (-0.08, 0.08)		
Min, Max of the difference	(-.3, 0.2)	(-0.5, 0.4)		

*P value was assessed using ANOVA with the fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right or mixed) and treatment group

10 **P value was assessed using ANCOVA with fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right or mixed) and treatment group with a continuous covariate of baseline maximal VO₂

***LS Mean (least square mean) was the estimated treatment mean difference from the analysis model

Endpoint	Udenafil (N=200)	Placebo (N=200)	Difference LS Mean (SE)	p-value^a
Log-transformed reactive hyperemia index	n=170	n=173		
Difference, Week 26 - baseline, mean (SD)	0.06 (0.301)	0.04 (0.370)	0.02 (0.030)	0.591
Log brain natriuretic peptide (pg/mL)	n=187	n=191		
Difference, Week 26 - baseline, mean (SD)	0.08 (0.905)	0.03 (1.137)	0.13 (0.094)	0.169

15 ANCOVA = analysis of covariance; ITT = intent-to-treat; LS = least squares; SD = standard deviation; SE = standard error

a P-value was assessed using ANCOVA with fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right or mixed) and treatment group with a continuous covariate of baseline maximal minute oxygen consumption.

Note: Brain natriuretic peptide values reported by the laboratory as <2.0 were imputed as 1.0.

20

Safety and Tolerability

Table 4: Non-Serious Adverse Events. Number of participants that experienced an adverse event presented as n (%).

	Udenafil (200)	Placebo (200)
Headache	79 (39.5)	51 (25.5)
Flushing	32 (16.0)	12 (6.0)
Dizziness	16 (8.0)	17 (8.5)
Nausea / vomiting	31 (15.5)	14 (7.0)
Increased erection*	13 (11.7)	2 (1.6)
Epistaxis	21 (10.5)	5 (2.5)

5 *Percentage of male participants.

Udenafil and placebo were well tolerated by study participants. There were no deaths in the study cohort. A total of 24 participants (6%) experienced a serious adverse event; 14 in the udenafil group and 10 in the placebo group. There were 3 events in the udenafil group and 2 events in the placebo group that were thought to have a possible, probable, or definite relationship to study drug. Those that
 10 occurred in the udenafil group included unilateral retinal artery and vein thrombosis, transient lower extremity diplegia, and transient dyspnea. Frequent non-serious adverse events thought to have a possible, probable, or definite relationship to study drug that occurred in at least 5% of participants in either treatment group are provided in **Table 4**. Headache, facial flushing, abdominal pain, epistaxis, and erection (male participants) were more common in the udenafil group. All other adverse events
 15 occurred with similar frequency between the groups.

EXAMPLE 2

Additional FUEL Trial Results

The following example additionally describes the above-referenced FUEL trial, as referenced in Goldberg, DJ, et al.: Results of the Fontan Udenafil Exercise Longitudinal (FUEL) Trial.

20 *Circulation*, 141(8):141:641-651 (2020), which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The Fontan operation creates a total cavopulmonary connection, a circulation in which the importance of pulmonary vascular resistance is magnified. Over time, this circulation leads to deterioration of cardiovascular efficiency associated with a decline in exercise performance.

25 Rigorous clinical trials aimed at improving physiology and guiding pharmacotherapy are lacking.

The FUEL Trial was a Phase III clinical trial conducted at 30 centers. Participants were randomly assigned udenafil, 87.5 mg twice daily, or placebo in a 1:1 ratio. The primary outcome was the between group difference in change in oxygen consumption at peak exercise. Secondary outcomes included between group differences in changes in sub-maximal exercise at the ventilatory anaerobic
 30 threshold (VAT), the myocardial performance index (MPI), the natural log of the reactive hyperemia index (lnRHI), and serum brain-type natriuretic peptide (BNP).

Between 2017 and 2019, 30 clinical sites in North America and the Republic of Korea randomized 400 participants with Fontan physiology. The mean age at randomization was 15.5 ± 2 years; 60% of participants were male and 81% were White. All 400 subjects were included in the primary analysis
 35 with imputation of the 26-week endpoint for 21 participants with missing data (11 randomized to udenafil and 10 to placebo). Among randomized participants, peak oxygen consumption increased by

5 44 ±245 mL/min (2.8%) in the udenafil group and declined by 3.7 ±228 mL/min (-0.2%) in the placebo group (p=0.071). Analysis at VAT demonstrated statistically significant improvements in the udenafil group versus the placebo group in oxygen consumption (+33 ±185 (3.2%) vs -9 ±193 (-0.9%) mL/min, p=0.012), ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide (-0.8 vs -0.06, p=0.014), and work rate (+3.8 vs +0.34 Watts, p=0.021). Analysis of MPI also demonstrated statistically significant
 10 improvement in the udenafil treated group (p=0.028) compared to the group taking placebo over the same time period. There was no difference in change in lnRHI, or serum BNP level.

In the FUEL trial, treatment with udenafil (87.5 mg twice daily) was associated with an improvement in oxygen consumption at peak exercise (p=0.071) and statistically significant improvements in (i) multiple measures of exercise performance at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT), (ii) MPI, (iii)
 15 diastolic blood pressure at rest, and (iv) oxygen saturation (%) at rest.

The FUEL trial is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Clinical Perspective

New aspects

- The Circulation publication describes the results of the Fontan Udenafil Exercise Longitudinal (FUEL) Trial, the largest medical intervention trial in congenital heart disease. Goldberg D.J. *et al.*: Results of the FUEL Trial. *Circulation*, 141(8):141:641- 651 (2020)
 20
- The Circulation errata to Goldberg D.J. *et al.*: Results of the FUEL Trial. *Circulation*, 141(8):141:641-651 (2020), as incorporated in Example 4, describes the corrected MPI results of the FUEL Trial.
- While treatment with udenafil did not result in a statistically significant increase in peak oxygen consumption, it did result in a notable increase in peak oxygen consumption.
- Treatment with udenafil did result in statistically significant improvements in measures of exercise performance at the ventilator anaerobic threshold (VAT), work rate at VAT, ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide (VE/VCO₂) at VAT, MPI, diastolic blood pressure at rest, and oxygen saturation at rest.
 25
- Udenafil was well tolerated by the FUEL Trial subjects with side effects limited to those previously known to be associated with phosphodiesterase type 5 inhibitors.
 30

Clinical Implications

- Udenafil is the first medication evaluated in a large-scale, phase III clinical trial to demonstrate a quantifiable benefit in measures of exercise capacity in adolescents after Fontan palliation.
 35
- These findings suggest that therapy with udenafil may improve the physiology, the exercise capacity, the work rate, the VE/VCO₂, the MPI, the cardiac output, the squeezing performance,

- 5 the amount of flow that can circulate through the body in a given amount of time, diastolic blood pressure and/or oxygen saturation at rest, and the performance of the single functioning ventricles of the cohort of patients who have undergone a total cavopulmonary connection.
- Ongoing surveillance is needed to determine the effect of chronic treatment with udenafil on the long-term clinical course of those living with single ventricle congenital heart disease.
- 10 Children born with single ventricle congenital heart disease (SVHD) require a series of staged surgical interventions to reconstruct their defective hearts for long-term survival. The Fontan operation, the final planned palliative procedure in this series of staged surgical interventions to reconstruct the heart, separates the systemic and pulmonary circulations by creating a total cavopulmonary connection. Fontan F and Baudet E. Surgical repair of tricuspid atresia. *Thorax*. 15 26(3):240-248 (May 1971); and Kreutzer G, Galindez E, Bono H, De Palma C and Laura JP. An operation for the correction of tricuspid atresia. *The Journal of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery*. 66(4):613-621 (Oct 1973).

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 10 performance and other cardiovascular and functional outcomes over a six-month period in adolescents who have undergone Fontan palliation.

Methods

The FUEL trial was an international, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of udenafil, in addition to standard care, in adolescents with SVHD who had undergone Fontan
 15 palliation. The trial was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)-funded PHN in partnership with the regulatory sponsor, Mezzion Pharma Co. Ltd., under a Special Protocol Assessment through the Food and Drug Administration. The FUEL protocol and consent forms and all subsequent amendments were approved by the DSMB, the institution review board or equivalent at each study center, and regulatory agencies from the United States, Canada, and the Republic of Korea.
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Trial Population

Individuals between the ages of 12 and 18 years (inclusive) who had undergone the Fontan procedure, who were not receiving treatment with a PDE5 inhibitor, who were ≥ 40 kg, and who met the
 30 minimum height requirement for cycle ergometry (≥ 132 cm) were eligible for enrollment. To isolate the effect of udenafil on exercise performance, patients with severe ventricular dysfunction, severe atrioventricular valve insufficiency, or those with a prior clinical exercise test in which peak oxygen consumption was <50% of predicted for age and sex, were excluded. The full list of inclusion and exclusion criteria are listed in **Table 1** above for the study protocol.

Randomization and Study Procedures

Enrolled participants were assigned to udenafil or placebo in a 1:1 ratio in a double-blind manner using randomly permuted blocks and stratified by ventricular morphology (left ventricle versus right

5 ventricle or mixed). Randomization assignments were generated by a web-based algorithm after confirmation of trial eligibility and consent.

Baseline clinical testing completed before drug initiation included a blood draw to measure brain-type natriuretic peptide (BNP) level, a cardiopulmonary exercise test (CPET) using a standardized cycle ergometer ramp protocol (previously described in children and adolescents with Fontan physiology, 10 Sleeper LA, Anderson P, Hsu DT, Mahony L, McCrindle BW, Roth SJ, Saul JP, Williams RV, Geva T, Colan SD, Clark BJ and Pediatric Heart Network I. Design of a large cross-sectional study to facilitate future clinical trials in children with the Fontan palliation. *Am Heart J.* 152(3):427-433 (Sep 2006), a standardized echocardiogram, and an assessment of peripheral vascular function using peripheral arterial tonometry (PAT) measured by finger cuff (EndoPAT; Itamar Medical, Israel).

15 Participants who achieved maximal effort, defined as respiratory exchange ratio (RER) >1.10 at peak exercise during CPET, were eligible for randomization and study drug initiation. Participants who did not achieve maximal effort were given a subsequent opportunity to repeat the exercise test within two weeks of the initial attempt. End-of-study clinical testing included repeat measurement of serum BNP, CPET, echocardiogram, and PAT.

20 **Primary and Secondary End Points**

The primary aim was to determine the effect of udenafil on exercise capacity in adolescents with Fontan physiology over a six-month period. The primary outcome was the between group difference in the change in oxygen consumption at peak exercise (peak VO_2) from baseline to the 26-week visit. Secondary exercise outcomes included between group differences in change in additional measures at 25 maximal exertion, as well as change in measures of submaximal exercise at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold (VAT). All measurement of values for exercise testing were initially made by the exercise physiologists and physicians at the individual participating sites. These were subsequently reviewed for accuracy in a blinded fashion at each site by one of two trained reviewers (MGM, SMP) in conjunction with the sites' exercise teams prior to finalization. For both peak VO_2 and VO_2 at VAT, 30 unindexed oxygen consumption was evaluated to avoid the introduction of confounding based on short-term change in body habits. An analysis of oxygen consumption corrected for body weight is included in **Table 5**.

Table 5: Oxygen consumption indexed to weight for peak exercise and the anaerobic threshold with comparison based on treatment arm. Summaries presented as mean $\pm$ standard deviation (n).

		<i>Peak exercise</i>	<i>Anaerobic Threshold</i>
		Oxygen consumption (mL/kg/min)	Oxygen consumption (mL/kg/min)
<i>Udenafil</i>	Baseline	27.84 $\pm$ 6.88 (200)	18.35 $\pm$ 4.63 (170)
	26-week	27.61 $\pm$ 6.87 (200)	18.20 $\pm$ 4.51 (185)
	Change	-0.23$\pm$4.06 (200)	-0.07$\pm$3.0 (170)

Placebo	Baseline	28.01±6.13 (200)	17.71±4.30 (181)
	26-week	27.12±6.63 (200)	16.99±4.13 (191)
	Change	-0.89±3.67 (200)	-0.68±3.2 (181)
	<i>p</i> value	0.092**	0.012**

- 5 **P_value was assessed using ANCOVA with fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right or mixed) and treatment group with a continuous covariate of baseline maximal VO₂. Imputations were done as follows:
- Subjects who were known to be alive, but who discontinued from the study (and were missing maximal VO₂ at Week 26) were assigned the latest value available (e.g., value from end of study visit if available and from baseline visit otherwise).
 - Subjects who completed Week 26, but were physically unable to reach maximum effort in cardiopulmonary exercise testing after two attempts, were assigned their baseline value when the subject met maximum effort in Baseline exercise testing. One exception was subject 330011 who was adjudicated to be included as RER was 1.10
- 10
- 15 The primary outcome for clinical secondary aims included the between group differences in change in myocardial performance index (MPI), an echocardiographically-derived measure of systolic and diastolic ventricular function, change in log-transformed reactive hyperemia index (lnRHI), a PAT-derived measure of peripheral vascular function, and change in log-transformed serum BNP level. Measurements for each of these secondary outcomes were performed at core labs. Safety was
- 20 monitored through adverse event reports, which were collected according to a pre-specified protocol of study coordinator outreach, and through *ad hoc* patient and family communication with members of the study team at each site.

Statistical Analysis

- A sample size of 200 participants per arm was chosen to allow for 90% power to detect a mean
- 25 treatment difference in change from baseline to 26-week testing in peak VO₂ of 10% with a type 1 error of 0.05. We assumed a baseline standard deviation of 7.235 ml/kg/min, a correlation between peak VO₂ measurements of 0.33, a drop-out and incomplete testing rate of 10%, and failure to reach maximal effort at the 26-week exercise testing in 15% of participants. These assumptions were based on historical data and reflect a conservative approach to assessing within-participant correlations and
- 30 failure to reach maximal effort and the analysis was performed using a two-sample, independent means t-test. The primary analysis used the intention-to-treat population to evaluate the difference in the change in the primary outcome between treatment arms. This difference was assessed with an analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) with fixed factors for ventricular morphology (single left versus single right or mixed) and treatment group, with a continuous covariate of baseline peak VO₂. For
- 35 those without data at the 26-week visit, this value was imputed as equal to the baseline value (no change). The alpha level was set at 0.05 with two-sided testing. All statistical analyses were performed using SAS statistical software 9.4 (SAS Institute, Inc., Cary, North Carolina). Secondary analyses included participants who successfully completed the protocol with measurable values at each of the secondary endpoints. Secondary outcomes of continuous data points were analyzed in the

manner described for the primary outcome. In order to assess the generalizability of findings at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold, demographic and clinical characteristics were compared between participants without paired VO₂ at VAT data and those comprising the remainder of the cohort using the Student's t-test and Fisher's exact test. Fisher's exact test was used to compare adverse events between the udenafil and placebo cohorts.

Results

Participants: From July 2016 to May 2018, 1376 patients at 30 centers were screened. **FIG. 1B.** Of these, 200 were randomly assigned to udenafil and 200 to placebo. Mean age at randomization was 15.5 years, mean height was 163.6 cm, and mean weight was 58.1 kg. Sixty percent of participants were male and 81% described their racial identity as white. Those in the placebo group were taller, compared to those in the udenafil group, but baseline characteristics were otherwise similar between groups in **Table 6**.

Table 6: Demographic and clinical baseline characteristics for the 400 subjects randomized to a treatment arm; summaries presented as mean (standard deviation) unless otherwise noted as n (%).

	Total (n=400)	Udenafil (n=200)	Placebo (n=200)
Age, years	15.5 (2.0)	15.4 (2.0)	15.6 (2.0)
Female, n (%)	161 (40.3)	89 (44.5)	72 (36.0)
Race, n (%)			
White	324 (81.0)	169 (84.5)	155 (77.5)
Asian	38 (9.5)	17 (8.5)	21 (10.5)
Black	23 (5.8)	10 (5.0)	13 (6.5)
Other	15 (3.8)	4 (2.0)	11 (5.5)
Predominant Ventricular morphology, n (%)			
Right	176 (44.0)	89 (44.5)	87 (43.5)
Left	189 (47.3)	94 (47.0)	95 (47.5)
Other (indeterminant and biventricular)	35 (8.8)	17 (8.5)	18 (9.0)
Subjects with a patent fenestration, n (%)	131 (32.8)	73 (36.5)	58 (29.0)
Height, cm	163.6 (9.6)	162.5 (10.4)	164.7 (8.7)
Weight, kg	58.1 (13.6)	57.1 (13.9)	59.0 (13.2)
Body mass index, kg/m ²	21.6 (4.1)	21.5 (3.9)	21.7 (4.2)

t-test for continuous variables, Fisher exact test for categorical

Exercise Measures

Resting, submaximal, and maximal exercise measures are presented in **Table 2**. Maximal exercise data were available for all participants at baseline testing, and for 379 participants at 26-week testing (189 in the udenafil group and 190 in the placebo group). Reasons for absence of data at 26-week testing included patient dropout or errors in data capture (n=14) and participant inability to generate an RER ≥ 1.10 (n=7). There was no difference in the change from baseline to 26-week testing in resting heart rate, respiratory rate, or systolic blood pressure between the udenafil and placebo groups.

5 Peak minute ventilation at baseline (pre-drug exposure) was higher in the placebo group, but there was no difference in the change in minute ventilation between groups. There was a small but statistically significant increase in resting oxygen saturation and a small but statistically significant decrease in diastolic blood pressure in the udenafil group.

Analysis at maximal exercise demonstrated an increase in peak VO_2 of 44 mL/min (2.8%) in the
 10 udenafil group compared to a decline of 3.7 mL/min (-0.2%) in the placebo group, although the difference did not reach statistical significance. **FIGS. 2A- 2B, p=0.071**. Metabolic data for the calculation of VO_2 at VAT were available for 351 participants; 170 in the udenafil group and 181 in the placebo group. There was no difference in the baseline demographic or clinical characteristics of this subgroup compared to the larger cohort. **Table 7**. For those with paired VO_2 at VAT data, there
 15 was a statistically significant improvement of 29.7 mL/min (2.85%) in the udenafil group compared to a decrease of 9 mL/min (-0.8%) in the placebo group. **FIGS. 3A-3B, p=0.023**. Ventilatory equivalents of carbon dioxide measured at VAT (VE/VCO_2) significantly decreased (improved ventilatory efficiency) by 0.8 in the udenafil group compared to 0.05 in the placebo group ($p=0.0114$), while the work rate significantly improved by 3.5 Watts (5.2%) in the udenafil group compared to 0.31 Watts
 20 (0.5%) in the placebo group. **FIGS. 4A- 4B, p=0.029**.

Table 7: Demographic and clinical baseline characteristics for subjects with versus without paired data for VO_2 at VAT; summaries presented as mean (standard deviation) unless otherwise noted as n (%).

	Total (n=400)	Paired Data (n=317)	No Paired Data (n=83)	p value*
Age, years	15.5 (2.0)	15.6 (2.0)	15.4 (2.2)	0.50
Female, n (%)	161 (40.3%)	128 (40.4%)	33 (39.8%)	1.0
Race, n (%)				0.16
White	324 (81.0%)	256 (80.8%)	68 (81.9%)	
Asian	38 (9.5%)	34 (10.7%)	4 (4.8%)	
Black	23 (5.8%)	15 (4.7%)	8 (9.6%)	
Other	15 (3.8%)	12 (3.8%)	3 (3.6%)	
Predominant Ventricular morphology, n (%)				0.97
Right	176 (44.0%)	138 (43.5%)	38 (45.8%)	
Left	189 (47.3%)	151 (47.6%)	38 (45.8%)	
Other (indeterminant and biventricular)	35 (8.8%)	28 (8.8%)	7 (8.4%)	
Subjects with a patent fenestration, n (%)	131 (32.8%)	104 (32.8%)	27 (32.5%)	1.0
Height, cm	163.6 (9.6)	164.0 (9.5)	162.0 (10.0)	0.095
Weight, kg	58.1 (13.6)	58.0 (13.6)	58.3 (13.5)	0.85
Body mass index, kg/m^2	21.6 (4.1)	21.5 (4.0)	22.1 (4.3)	0.19
Baseline VO_2 at peak exercise	1594 (426)	1614 (432)	1518 (400)	0.07
Baseline VO_2 at the anaerobic threshold	1030 (290)	1034 (294)	993 (251)	0.44

- 5 *t-test for continuous variables, Fisher exact test for categorical. Differences between those with and without paired data.

Secondary aims

Paired echocardiographic data for the measure of MPI were available in 250 participants (63%); 122 in the udenafil group and 128 in the placebo group. **Table 3.** There was a statistically significant
 10 change (decrease shows improvement) in MPI in the udenafil-treated group (-0.02 decrease, improvement) as compared to the placebo group (+0.01 increase, no improvement) ($p=0.028$). Paired PAT-derived vascular function data were available in 328 participants (81%); 163 in the udenafil group and 165 in the placebo group. There were non-significant improvements in lnRHI in both the
 15 udenafil and placebo groups (0.07 vs 0.05, $p=0.59$). Paired measures of serum BNP level were available in 378 participants (95%); 187 in the udenafil group and 191 in the placebo group. The change in log serum BNP level was not different between groups ($p=0.18$).

Safety and tolerability

Udenafil and placebo were well tolerated by study participants. There were no deaths in the study cohort. A total of 24 participants (6%) experienced a serious adverse event; 14 in the udenafil group
 20 and 10 in the placebo group. There were 3 events in the udenafil group and 2 events in the placebo group that were thought to have a possible, probable, or definite relationship to study drug. Those that occurred in the udenafil group included unilateral retinal artery and vein thrombosis, transient lower extremity diplegia, and transient dyspnea. Frequent non-serious adverse events thought to have a possible, probable, or definite relationship to study drug are listed in **Table 4.** Headache, facial
 25 flushing, abdominal pain, epistaxis, and erection (male participants) were more common in the udenafil group. There were no reported episodes of priapism. All other adverse events occurred with similar frequency between the groups.

Discussion

The FUEL trial was a phase III clinical trial of udenafil in children with SVHD who have undergone
 30 the Fontan operation. Although the relative improvement in peak VO_2 in the udenafil group did not reach statistical significance when compared between treatment arms, treatment with udenafil did lead to statistically significant improvements in pre-specified secondary outcome measures of sub-maximal exercise. Participants randomized to udenafil had superior gains in oxygen consumption, work rate, ventilatory efficiency at the anaerobic threshold, and the myocardial performance index. A
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Despite the importance of the findings reported here, there are limitations to this trial. First, to minimize burden to participants, the study design did not include detailed measures of hemodynamics such as might be obtained with cardiac magnetic resonance imaging or invasive catheterization study. Additionally, evaluation of the PAT outcome did not reveal a benefit to udenafil over placebo. [?] Further interrogation of the multiple measures provided by these studies was not performed in this initial analysis but will be the subject of future analyses. Finally, the duration of the FUEL trial precluded a long-term assessment of safety, although this is being addressed by the ongoing FUEL open-label extension study.

Treatment with udenafil (87.5 mg twice daily), in addition to standard therapy, was not associated with a statistically significant improvement in oxygen consumption at peak exercise but did demonstrate statistically significant improvements in multiple measures of exercise performance at the ventilatory anaerobic threshold. As the first large, multicenter, placebo- controlled, randomized trial to demonstrate a measurable physiologic benefit for Fontan patients, the FUEL trial represents a milestone in the nearly 50-year experience with the Fontan circulation and serves as a model of how public-private partnership can advance science in congenital heart disease. Further study is warranted to determine if udenafil is selectively beneficial for subpopulations within the larger cohort with SVHD, and to evaluate the long-term tolerability and safety of treatment.

The disclosures cited in this **EXAMPLE 2** are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties as if fully set forth herein.

EXAMPLE 3

Formulation of Udenafil Tablet

An exemplary formulation of a tablet containing 87.5 mg of the udenafil is detailed in **Table 8**. The udenafil formulation as reported in **Table 8** was used with Fontan patients enrolled in the FUEL trial, which is discussed in Examples 1 and 2 above.

Table 8: Composition of Udenafil Tablets, 87.5 mg.

Component	Quality Standard	Function	Quantity (mg/tablet)
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Core tablet			
Udenafil	In-house	Active	about 87.5
Lactose monohydrate	NF	Diluent	about 100.00
Corn starch	NF	Diluent	about 20.00
Low substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose	NF	Disintegrant	about 12.50
Colloidal silicon dioxide	NF	Disintegrant	about 12.50
Hydroxypropyl cellulose	NF	Binder	about 7.50
Purified water	USP	Granulating solvent	NA ¹
Talc	USP	Glidant	about 7.50
Magnesium stearate	NF	Lubricant	about 2.50
Total core tablet weight			about 250.0 mg
Tablet coating			
Purified water	USP	Solvent	NA ¹
Opadry white ³	In-house	Coating material	about 8.00 ²
Total Tablet Weight			about 258.00

¹ Purified Water, USP is removed during the manufacturing process and is not part of the final formulation.

² Based on a nominal coating weight gain of 3.2% w/w

³ Opadry white contains hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, titanium dioxide, and polyethylene glycol

EXAMPLE 4

Udenafil effect on echocardiographic indices of myocardial performance in SVHD subjects with Fontan Palliation

An objective of the FUEL Trial was to determine the effect of udenafil on echocardiographic measures of myocardial performance in adolescents, ages about 12 to about 18, with a functional single-ventricle physiology after Fontan surgery. The FUEL Trial was a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, trial and was conducted in adolescents, ages about 12 to about 18, after the Fontan operation, at 30 different sites located in the United States (26), Canada (2) and South Korea (2). The Fontan patients were randomized to receive placebo or udenafil (87.5 mg twice daily) for 26 weeks.

Each subject underwent an echocardiogram at the start and finish of the 26 weeks. Paired echocardiographic data for the measure of MPI were available in 250 participants (63%); 122 in the udenafil group and 128 in the placebo group. **Table 3.** There was a statistically significant change in MPI in the udenafil treated group (-0.02 decrease, improvement) as compared to the placebo group (+0.01 increase, no improvement) (p=0.028). The change in the MPI was determined by velocities obtained from blood pool Doppler assessment of the inflow and outflow tract of the single functioning dominant ventricle. All measurements were made by the echocardiography core lab at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin. The subjects treated with udenafil demonstrated statistically significant improvement (decrease shows improvement) in their myocardial performance index (MPI), p=0.028, compared to subjects taking placebo over the same time period.

5 These data demonstrate an improvement in MPI in the udenafil group relative to the placebo group (-0.02 vs +0.01, $p=0.028$). Myocardial performance is an important factor in the long-term health of those with SVHD, including those with SVHD who have undergone Fontan surgery, and improvement in this aspect of physiology complements the improvement noted in exercise performance and suggests that the benefit of treatment with udenafil may be multifactorial.

10 All disclosures, including all patents, patent documents, articles, abstracts, errata and publications, that are listed, referenced and/or cited herein, including application for U.S. patent, Serial Number 14/788,211, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2019/0030037, U.S. Patent No. 10,137,128, and application for U.S. Patent, Serial Number 15/887,523, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2018/0169103, U.S. Patent No. 10,653,698, Goldberg, D.J. *et al.*: Results of the FUEL Trial. *Circulation*. 141:641-651 (February
15 25, 2020) and Goldberg, D.J. *et al.*: Correction to: Results of the FUEL Trial. *Circulation*. 142:e31 (July, 14, 2020), are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties, as if each were individually and completely incorporated and set forth herein.

In case of conflict with other related earlier filed applications cited under “Related Applications,” this present specification, including definitions, shall control.

20 **EXAMPLE 5. THE FALD TRIAL**

The FALD trial was conducted as discussed above. The results of the trial are also discussed above, including the discussions of **Tables A and B** and the results depicted thereon.

Charts 1A (**FIG. 8A**) and 1B (**FIG. 8B**) are scatterplots showing the percent change in ELF score compared to the baseline score for all subjects that had both a measurable baseline value and a
25 measurable 52 week value. Subjects who had a decrease in ELF score are plotted below the zero line. Subjects that had an increase in ELF score are plotted above the zero line. About 94% of the U+ cohort patients had improved ELF scores.

In the scatterplot labeled Cohort(N)=U+ (subjects treated with udenafil for 78 weeks) all but 2 of 31 subjects had a decrease (improvement) in ELF score. In the scatterplot labeled Cohort (N)=U-
30 (subjects treated with udenafil for 52 weeks), about 30 of 40 subjects (75%) had a decrease (Improvement) in ELF score. Overall, about 84% of the subjects had an improved ELF score. A greater percentage of subjects treated with udenafil for 78 weeks had an improvement their ELF score vs those treated with udenafil for 52 weeks.

The paired data of the individual participants is included as Appendix A to this application.

35 Various modifications and alterations to this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of this invention. Illustrative embodiments and examples

- 5 are provided as examples only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present invention. The scope of the invention is limited only by the claims set forth as follows.

5 **Table A: Change and % Change from Baseline Enhanced Liver Fibrosis Score (ELF)**

	Received Udenafil In FUEL (U+) (N=36)	Received Udenafil DeNovo (U-) (N=52)	Total (N=88)
Baseline ELF [1]			
n	36	49	85
Mean (SD)	10.5 (0.92)	10.3 (0.97)	10.4(0.95)
Week 52 ELF			
n	32	41	73
Mean (SD)	9.7(0.82)	9.8 (0.76)	9.8 (0.78)
Median	9.6	9.9	9.7
Min, Max	7.9, 11.1	7.6, 11.2	7.6, 11.2
ELF Change: Week 52 - Baseline			
n	32	41	73
Mean (SD)	-0.9(0.59)	-0.7 (0.94)	-0.7(0.81)
Median	-0.9	-0.6	-0.8
Min, Max	-1.8, 0.5	-2.3, 1.6	-2.3, 1.6
P-value of the hypothesis test that the mean change from baseline = 0[2]			<0.0001
P-value comparing mean change from baseline for U+ Vs. U-[3]			0.2672

ELF Percent Change: Week 52 - Baseline			
	Received Udenafil In FUEL (U+) (N=36)	Received Udenafil DeNovo (U-) (N=52)	Total (N=88)
n	32	41	73
Mean (SD)	-8.0(5.56)	-5.9 (8.98)	-6.8(7.69)
Median	-8.4	-6.1	-7.2
Min, Max	-16.3,5.6	-20.1, 18.0	-20.1, 18.0
P-value of the hypothesis test that the mean % change from baseline =	<0.0001	0.0001	<0.0001
P-value comparing mean % change from baseline for U+ Vs. U-[3]			

[1] ELF = Enhanced Liver Fibrosis (ng/ml)
[2] T-test comparing the mean change (or % change) vs. zero. Note: if data is very skewed, T-test will be replaced by the Wilcoxon signed-rank test
[3] T-test comparing the mean change (or % change) for U+ vs. U-. Note: if data is very skewed, T-test will be replaced by the Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

Table B: Udenafil FALD Data - ELF Scores at Baseline VS. ELF at Post Baseline Cohort=U+

Baseline ELF Score	Post Baseline ELF Score			N
	Mild	Mod	Sev	
17.7,9.8): moderate fibrosis	0	8 (100%)	0	8
19.8,11.3): severe fibrosis	0	10 (67%)	5 (33%)	15
>=11.3: Cirrhosis	0	2 (22%)	7 (78%)	9
	19/32 (59%) Improved			

Cohort=U-

Baseline ELF Score	Post Baseline ELF Score			N
	Mild	Mod	Sev	
17.7,9.8): moderate fibrosis	1 (8%)	3 (25%)	8 (67%)	12
19.8,11.3): severe fibrosis	0	13 (62%)	8 (38%)	21
>=11.3: Cirrhosis	0	2 (25%)	6 (75%)	8
	22/41 (54%) Improved			

Baseline ELF Score	Post Baseline ELF Score			N
	Mild	Mod	Sev	
17.7,9.8): moderate fibrosis	1 (5%)	11 (55%)	8 (40%)	20
19.8,11.3): severe fibrosis	0	23 (64%)	13 (36%)	36
>=11.3: Cirrhosis	0	4 (24%)	13 (76%)	17
	41/73 (56%) Improved			

Appendix A: Subject Listing of Liver Stiffness and Biomarkers Data Recorded
Safety Population

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Cohort=U+

Excluded from the Population												
Per												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
110	110006				Baseline	1.97		23	9.44	47.7	13.01	140.6
					Post Baseline	1.69		33	8.85	28.13	10.6	143.6
					Change from Baseline	-0.28		10	-0.59	-19.57	-2.41	3
					%Change from Baseline	-14.2132		43.478261	-6.25	-41.02725	-18.52421	2.1337127
	110010				Baseline	2.58	5.88	13.3	10.76	40.79	61.84	289.3
					Post Baseline	2.05	6.86	9	10.19	31.31	44.45	223.8
					Change from Baseline	-0.53	0.98	-4.3	-0.57	-9.48	-17.39	-65.5
					%Change from Baseline	-20.54264	16.666667	-32.33083	-5.297398	-23.24099	-28.12096	-22.64086
120	120008				Baseline	1.81	3.65	15.4	9.39	32.79	14.41	230.1
					Post Baseline	1.73		17	8.71	17.92	12.47	195.1

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
					Change from Baseline	-0.08		1.6	-0.68	-14.87	-1.94	-35
					%Change from Baseline	-4.41989		10.38961	-7.241747	-45.34919	-13.46287	-15.21078
120014					Baseline	1.9		9.5	9.73	31.38	25.88	196.7
					Post Baseline	1.99		18	9.21	26.09	15.65	203.6
					Change from Baseline	0.09		8.5	-0.52	-5.29	-10.23	6.9
					%Change from Baseline	4.7368421		89.473684	-5.344296	-16.85787	-39.52859	3.50788
120020				*	Baseline	2.39		23.4	9.62	30.86	22.35	199.7
120	120022				Baseline	2.07		19.6	11.7	137.35	69.55	181.3
					Post Baseline	2.02		27	11	70.56	58.86	175.5
					Change from Baseline	-0.05		7.4	-0.7	-66.79	-10.69	-5.8
					%Change from Baseline	-2.415459		37.755102	-5.982906	-48.62759	-15.37024	-3.199117
140	140003				Baseline	1.91	6.03	5	10.36	82.77	19.89	196.8

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
140028	Per				Post Baseline	1.8	5.36	5	9.46	35.3	15.73	195.1
					Change from Baseline	-0.11	-0.67	0	-0.9	-47.47	-4.16	-1.7
					%Change from Baseline	-5.759162	-11.111111	0	-8.687259	-57.3517	-20.91503	-0.863821
					Baseline	1.75	4.98	3.7	9.27	106.23	3.13	244
					Post Baseline	2.3	4	1	7.89	17.2	4.67	175.7
140029					Change from Baseline	0.55	-0.98	-2.7	-1.38	-89.03	1.54	-68.3
					%Change from Baseline	31.428571	-19.67871	-72.97297	-14.88673	-83.80872	49.201278	-27.9918
					Baseline	2.15		23.4	10.15	77.5	13.75	265.8
					Baseline	2	5.81	21.3	10.01	125.31	8.12	178.8
					Post Baseline	1.85	4.58	69	8.42	13.53	10.87	225.2
140030					Change from Baseline	-0.15	-1.23	47.7	-1.59	-111.78	2.75	46.4
					%Change from Baseline	-7.5	-21.1704	223.94366	-15.88412	-89.20278	33.866995	25.950783

*

Excluded from the Population									
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	Per			
						USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score
						HA	PHINP	TIMP-1	
140033					Baseline	1.95	4.91	17	11.32
					Post Baseline	1.03	4.32	9	10.75
					Change from Baseline	-0.92	-0.59	-8	-0.57
					%Change from Baseline	-47.17949	-12.01629	-47.05882	-5.035336
140041					Baseline	1.53	4.17	13.7	9.58
					Post Baseline	1.77	3.91	4	9.25
					Change from Baseline	0.24	-0.26	-9.7	-0.33
					%Change from Baseline	15.686275	-6.235012	-70.80292	-3.444676
160006					Baseline	2.24		6.16	9
					Baseline	1.88	5.24	15	12.01
					Post Baseline	1.81	5.39	10	10.84
					Change from Baseline	-0.07	0.15	-5	-1.17
170019					Baseline	15.94	21.68		182.6
					Baseline	242.48	52.51		198.7
					Post Baseline	95.62	31.07		207.9
					Change from Baseline	-146.86	-21.44		9.2

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
200	200018				%Change from Baseline	-3.723404	2.8625954	-33.333333	-9.741882	-60.56582	-40.83032	4.6300956
					Baseline	1.98		1	9.32	31.01	16.63	162.6
					Post Baseline	1.81		8.6	9.64	47.13	14.83	184.1
					Change from Baseline	-0.17		7.6	0.32	16.12	-1.8	21.5
					%Change from Baseline	-8.585859		760	3.4334764	51.983231	-10.82381	13.222632
					Baseline	2.07		10	11.42	105.98	62.77	188.4
200019					Post Baseline	1.97		5	10.28	43.99	37.21	187.8
					Change from Baseline	-0.1		-5	-1.14	-61.99	-25.56	-0.6
					%Change from Baseline	-4.830918		-50	-9.982487	-58.49217	-40.72009	-0.318471
					Baseline	1.97		8	10.72	71.07	37.28	204.9
					Post Baseline	2		42	10.21	31.51	48.54	197.2
					Change from Baseline	0.03		34	-0.51	-39.56	11.26	-7.7

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Per Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PIINP	TIMP-1
					%Change from Baseline	1.5228426		425	-4.757463	-55.66343	30.203863	-3.757931
200021					Baseline	2.54		26.9	12.31	226.08	85.95	195.5
					Post Baseline	2		11	11.07	91.4	49.35	167.5
					Change from Baseline	-0.54		-15.9	-1.24	-134.68	-36.6	-28
					%Change from Baseline	-21.25984		-59.10781	-10.07311	-59.57183	-42.5829	-14.32225
210	210011				Baseline	3.35		3	10.5	104.03	18.15	201.2
					Post Baseline	1.61		11.4	8.97	17.19	17.21	225.9
					Change from Baseline	-1.74		8.4	-1.53	-86.84	-0.94	24.7
					%Change from Baseline	-51.9403		280	-14.57143	-83.47592	-5.179063	12.276342
210012				Baseline	1.67	4.42	6.2	8.68	13.67	15.5	215.5	
				Post Baseline	1.47	4.32	12.7	9.17	20.12	18.83	222.8	
				Change from Baseline	-0.2	-0.1	6.5	0.49	6.45	3.33	7.3	

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
210	210013				%Change from Baseline	-11.97605	-2.262443	104.83871	5.6451613	47.183614	21.483871	3.387471
					Baseline	1.67		49.2	11.05	188.21	20.44	183.1
					Post Baseline	1.89		61	10.83	143.57	19.89	196
					Change from Baseline	0.22		11.8	-0.22	-44.64	-0.55	12.9
220	220023				%Change from Baseline	13.173653		23.98374	-1.99095	-23.71819	-2.690802	7.0453304
					Baseline	1.87	4.07	30.8	10.02	57.92	17.8	217.7
					Post Baseline	1.99	4.56	41	9.07	17.39	21.31	188.6
					Change from Baseline	0.12	0.49	10.2	-0.95	-40.53	3.51	-29.1
220024					%Change from Baseline	6.4171123	12.039312	33.116883	-9.481038	-69.97583	19.719101	-13.36702
					Baseline	2.33	6.03	29	11.3	280.19	18.7	170.5
					Post Baseline	2	6	46.1	9.74	36.76	21.66	200
					Change from Baseline	-0.33	-0.03	17.1	-1.56	-243.43	2.96	29.5

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
220	220025	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline										
		Post Baseline										
		Change from Baseline										
	220026	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline										
		Post Baseline										
		Change from Baseline										
220	220030	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline										
		Post Baseline										
		Change from Baseline										

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
270	270019	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline	1.77		13	10.41	115.78	15.66	170.6			
		Post Baseline	1.9		10.2	9.34	51.07	9.85	157.7			
		Change from Baseline	0.13		-2.8	-1.07	-64.71	-5.81	-12.9			
	270023	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline	1.76	4.28	20	9.64	41.54	15.84	216.9			
		Post Baseline	1.92	5.09	20	9.61	34.52	16.69	267.8			
		Change from Baseline	0.16	0.81	0	-0.03	-7.02	0.85	50.9			
270	270026	%Change from Baseline										
		Baseline	1.94	6.03	36	11.03	129.85	30.12	182.8			
		Post Baseline	1.64	6.06	48	10.92	73.7	36.46	328.9			
		Change from Baseline	-0.3	0.03	12	-0.11	-56.15	6.34	146.1			

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
460	160013				%Change from Baseline	-15.46392	0.4975124	33.333333	-0.99728	-43.2422	21.049137	79.923414
					Baseline	1.63	5.56	22.6	11	79.54	44.73	233.4
					Post Baseline	2.01	3.92	30	9.31	21.19	24.3	176.4
					Change from Baseline	0.38	-1.64	7.4	-1.69	-58.35	-20.43	-57
460012					%Change from Baseline	23.312883	-29.4964	32.743363	-15.36364	-73.35932	-45.67404	-24.42159
					Baseline	1.97	4.55	10	12.1	193.58	80.47	181.1
					Post Baseline	2.31	4.65	6	10.37	44	47.55	149.6
					Change from Baseline	0.34	0.1	-4	-1.73	-149.58	-32.92	-31.5
460	460013				%Change from Baseline	17.258883	2.1978022	-40	-14.29752	-77.27038	-40.90966	-17.39371
					Baseline	1.63	5.29	11.9	10.32	52.62	41.17	116.1
					Post Baseline	2.13	4.43					
					Change from Baseline	0.5	-0.86					

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
					%Change from Baseline	30.674847	-16.25709					
470	470005				Baseline	1.3	6.73	3.7	9.91	48.48	21.95	165.7
					Post Baseline	1.84	7.43	1	8.92	17.21	19.01	162.2
					Change from Baseline	0.54	0.7	-2.7	-0.99	-31.27	-2.94	-3.5
					%Change from Baseline	41.538462	10.401189	-72.97297	-9.989909	-64.50083	-13.39408	-2.112251
470011					Baseline	1.3	5.09	6	10.95	137.46	26.71	168.2
					Post Baseline	1.39	4.04	1	9.16	26.25	16.58	156.1
					Change from Baseline	0.09	-1.05	-5	-1.79	-111.21	-10.13	-12.1
					%Change from Baseline	6.9230769	-20.62868	-83.33333	-16.34703	-80.90354	-37.92587	-7.193817
470	470016				Baseline	1.51	6.76	8.4	10.59	137.84	16.81	158.5
					Post Baseline	1.46	6.18	23	9.55	39.19	15.57	200.5
					Change from Baseline	-0.05	-0.58	14.6	-1.04	-98.65	-1.24	42

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Per Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
									Score			
					%Change from Baseline	-3.311258	-8.579882	173.80952	-9.820585	-71.56849	-7.376562	26.498423
490	4900008				Baseline	1.84		10.9	10.74	76.45	28.04	314.5
					Post Baseline	2.07		2	10.25	39.79	31.61	297.8
					Change from Baseline	0.23		-8.9	-0.49	-36.66	3.57	-16.7
					%Change from Baseline	12.5		-81.65138	-4.562384	-47.95291	12.731812	-5.310016

*subject is excluded from the respective population

SUBJECT LISTING OF LIVER STIFFNESS AND BIOMARKERS DATA RECORDED
SAFETY POPULATION

WO 2023/018972

PCT/US2022/040227

Cohort=U-

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
110	110005				Baseline	2.46	7.19	6	10.25	46.7	36.34	161.5
					Post Baseline	2.4	7.8	1	9.47	35.83	17.3	163.8
					Change from Baseline	-0.06	0.61	-5	-0.78	-10.87	-19.04	2.3
					%Change from Baseline	-2.439024	8.4840056	-83.33333	-7.609756	-23.27623	-52.39406	1.4241486
	110007				Baseline	1.69		45	10.9	121.52	30.96	143
					Post Baseline	1.56		20	9.68	53.6	15.34	145.3
					Change from Baseline	-0.13		-25	-1.22	-67.92	-15.62	2.3
					%Change from Baseline	-7.692308		-55.55556	-11.19266	-55.89203	-50.4522	1.6083916
110	110014				Baseline	1.83		27	10.12	89.49	15.04	152.6
					Post Baseline	1.94		1	8.09	7.07	15.81	192

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
120	120002				Change from Baseline	0.11		-26	-2.03	-82.42	0.77	39.4
					%Change from Baseline	6.010929		-96.2963	-20.05929	-92.09968	5.1196809	25.819135
					Baseline	1.96		31.7	11.62	175.03	46.11	190.8
					Post Baseline	2.37		21	9.77	37.68	23.03	181
					Change from Baseline	0.41		-10.7	-1.85	-137.35	-23.08	-9.8
					%Change from Baseline	20.918367		-33.75394	-15.92083	-78.47226	-50.05422	-5.136268
					Baseline	2.15		14.7	8.94	21.24	15.23	165.8
					Post Baseline	2.13		11	9.91	75.52	12.9	172
					Change from Baseline	-0.02		-3.7	0.97	54.28	-2.33	6.2
					%Change from Baseline	-0.930233		-25.17007	10.850112	255.55556	-15.29875	3.7394451
	120011				Baseline	2.22		31.6	8.78	27.1	8.98	178.6
					Post Baseline	1.73						

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Per Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
Change from Baseline						-0.49						
%Change from Baseline						-22.07207						
120	120023				Baseline	1.64	2.35	32.5	9.61	39.71	15.09	241.1
					Post Baseline	1.62	2.54	26	10.51	67.38	25.08	288.2
					Change from Baseline	-0.02	0.19	-6.5	0.9	27.67	9.99	47.1
					%Change from Baseline	-1.219512	8.0851064	-20	9.3652445	69.680181	66.202783	19.535462
	120903				Baseline	1.99		6	9.41	20.05	25.31	234.1
					Post Baseline	2.08		3	9.67	23.1	27.3	290.4
					Change from Baseline	0.09		-3	0.26	3.05	1.99	56.3
					%Change from Baseline	4.5226131		-50	2.7630181	15.21197	7.8625049	24.049551
120	120904				Baseline	1.99		21.2	10.84	88.36	38.63	161.7
					Post Baseline	1.89		38.2	9.61	25.24	26.3	221.1

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
					Change from Baseline	-0.1		17	-1.23	-63.12	-12.33	59.4
					%Change from Baseline	-5.025126		80.188679	-11.34686	-71.43504	-31.9182	36.734694
	120905				Baseline	2.08		12.2	9.04	19	16.86	223.4
					Post Baseline	1.92		6.5	10.67	56.17	36.72	304.6
					Change from Baseline	-0.16		-5.7	1.63	37.17	19.86	81.2
					%Change from Baseline	-7.692308		-46.72131	18.030973	195.63158	117.79359	36.347359
140	140024				Baseline	1.91	4.02	6	11.1	137.54	28.42	218.7
					Post Baseline	1.62	4.12	22.1	9.12	17.36	23.24	183.6
					Change from Baseline	-0.29	0.1	16.1	-1.98	-120.18	-5.18	-35.1
					%Change from Baseline	-15.18325	2.4875622	268.33333	-17.83784	-87.37822	-18.2266	-16.04938
	140027				Baseline	1.77		6				
					Post Baseline	2.13		34.1	10.16	47.68	20.93	354.4

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PIINP	TIMP-1
140	140032				Change from Baseline	0.36		28.1				
					%Change from Baseline	20.338983		468.33333				
					Baseline	2.37	6.02	18	10.87	79.92	39.64	204
					Post Baseline	1.99		12	9.54	18.18	35.3	217.9
					Change from Baseline	-0.38		-6	-1.33	-61.74	-4.34	13.9
	140034				%Change from Baseline	-16.03376		-33.33333	-12.23551	-77.25225	-10.94854	6.8137255
					Baseline	2.11	5.14	18	9.4	22.83	24.93	179.1
					Post Baseline	2.65	3.66	8	10.1	47.34	27.77	180.4
					Change from Baseline	0.54	-1.48	-10	0.7	24.51	2.84	1.3
					%Change from Baseline	25.592417	-28.79377	-55.55556	7.4468085	107.35874	11.391897	0.7258515
	140035				Baseline	1.38	4.13	42	10.11	53.38	23.18	201.6
					Post Baseline	1.56	4.28	20.8	8.61	16.87	11.96	190

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PIIINP	TIMP-1
140	140035				Change from Baseline	0.18	0.15	-21.2	-1.5	-36.51	-11.22	-11.6
					%Change from Baseline	13.043478	3.6319613	-50.47619	-14.8368	-68.3964	-48.4038	-5.753968
	140036				Baseline	1.79		6	10.38	81.03	19.44	227.4
					Post Baseline	1.42		11	9.48	46.12	11.63	204.8
					Change from Baseline	-0.37		5	-0.9	-34.91	-7.81	-22.6
					%Change from Baseline	-20.67039		83.333333	-8.67052	-43.08281	-40.1749	-9.938434
	140038				Baseline	2.34	5.45	7.3	11.22	65.34	70.53	256.1
					Post Baseline	2.3	5.34	13	10.13	30.88	43.58	206.6
					Change from Baseline	-0.04	-0.11	5.7	-1.09	-34.46	-26.95	-49.5
140	140038				%Change from Baseline	-1.709402	-2.018349	78.082192	-9.714795	-52.73952	-38.21069	-19.32839
	140039				Baseline	2.25	4.95	28.6	9.97	85.33	11.61	191.1
					Post Baseline	1.89		42	9.65	56.72	13.04	162.7

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF		TIMP-1	
									Score	HA		
140	140904				Change from Baseline	-0.36		13.4	-0.32	-28.61	1.43	-28.4
					%Change from Baseline	-16		46.853147	-3.209629	-33.52865	12.316968	-14.86133
					Baseline	1.86	6.21	10.3	11.38	187.07	27.87	233.2
					Post Baseline	1.7		32	9.61	46.57	11.3	294.2
					Change from Baseline	-0.16		21.7	-1.77	-140.5	-16.57	61
					%Change from Baseline	-8.602151		210.67961	-15.5536	-75.10558	-59.45461	26.157804
					Baseline	1.41	5.81	14	10.61	170.44	12.16	195.7
					Baseline	1.93	6.42	12	10.51	78.49	26.89	181.4
					Post Baseline	2.63	5.06	29.9	10.11	54.4	21.04	229.2
					Change from Baseline	0.7	-1.36	17.9				
160	160902			%Change from Baseline	36.26943	-21.1838	149.16667					
				Baseline	2.38		7.9	9.11	43.25	7.33	220.1	
				*								

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
160903					Baseline	1.68		9.6	9.76	37.35	20.5	222.7
					Post Baseline	2.23		15	10.14	42.51	26.34	278.1
					Change from Baseline	0.55		5.4	0.38	5.16	5.84	55.4
					%Change from Baseline	32.738095		56.25	3.8934426	13.815261	28.487805	24.876515
160904		*			Baseline	2.37		24.9	8.78	22.42	9.91	226.9
	160905		*		Baseline	1.57		2.5	8	18.64	4.72	188.3
	160906		*		Baseline	1.59		19.2	9.62	20.63	34.53	208.2
	160907		*		Baseline	1.71		26.2	8.88	24.46	10.89	200.6
160909		*			Baseline	1.93		44	10.9	48.53	64.16	263.4
	170901				Baseline	2.06		3.6	10.39	45	39.65	211.3
					Post Baseline	1.98		4	9.69	29.01	25	221.5
					Change from Baseline	-0.08		0.4	-0.7	-15.99	-14.65	10.2
					%Change from Baseline	-3.883495		11.111111	-6.737247	-35.53333	-36.9483	4.8272598

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
200	170902				Baseline	1.75	4.49	2	11.01	121.72	29.86	201.8
					Post Baseline	1.88	7.54	19.3	10.41	36.65	54.99	186.5
					Change from Baseline	0.13	3.05	17.3	-0.6	-85.07	25.13	-15.3
					%Change from Baseline	7.4285714	67.928731	865	-5.449591	-69.88991	84.159411	-7.581764
200	200014				Baseline	1.77		28	8.85	12.72	20.74	220.3
					Post Baseline	1.52		21	7.6	4.22	14.68	197.3
					Change from Baseline	-0.25		-7	-1.25	-8.5	-6.06	-23
					%Change from Baseline	-14.12429		-25	-14.12429	-66.8239	-29.2189	-10.44031
	200901				Baseline	1.89		3.8	10.6	38.54	66.36	187.5
					Post Baseline	1.97		6.2	10.4	47.31	44.87	151.8
					Change from Baseline	0.08		2.4	-0.2	8.77	-21.49	-35.7
					%Change from Baseline	4.2328042		63.157895	-1.886792	22.755579	-32.38397	-19.04

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHNP	TIMP-1
210	210901				Baseline	2.36	4.72	3.9	11.68	132.76	62.94	226.1
					Post Baseline	2.87	5.94	19	10.39	40.14	44.24	221.4
					Change from Baseline	0.51	1.22	15.1	-1.29	-92.62	-18.7	-4.7
					%Change from Baseline	21.610169	25.847458	387.17949	-11.04452	-69.76499	-29.71084	-2.078726
220	220028				Baseline	3		2	12.06	243.25	53.27	216
					Post Baseline	2		4	10.22	70.12	19.52	201.4
					Change from Baseline	-1		2	-1.84	-173.13	-33.75	-14.6
					%Change from Baseline	-33.33333		100	-15.25705	-71.17369	-63.35649	-6.759259
	220029				Baseline	2.29	6.01	6	10.95	60.45	51.91	275.1
					Post Baseline	1.79	6.73	3	9.08	12.79	28.78	209.3
					Change from Baseline	-0.5	0.72	-3	-1.87	-47.66	-23.13	-65.8
					%Change from Baseline	-21.83406	11.980033	-50	-17.07763	-78.84202	-44.55789	-23.91858

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
220	220901				Baseline			30.9	9.54	65.07	8.91	190.4
					Post Baseline	2.25		23	9.03	28.29	11.46	192.1
					Change from Baseline			-7.9	-0.51	-36.78	2.55	1.7
					%Change from Baseline			-25.56634	-5.345912	-56.52374	28.619529	0.8928571
220	220902				Baseline	2.52	4.15	8.5	10.6	64.24	40.76	159.8
					Post Baseline	2.16	3.72	12	9.46	18.27	34.15	185.1
					Change from Baseline	-0.36	-0.43	3.5	-1.14	-45.97	-6.61	25.3
					%Change from Baseline	-14.28571	-10.36145	41.176471	-10.75472	-71.55978	-16.21688	15.83229
220	220903				Baseline	1.88		11.5	9.92	47.42	23.1	160
					Post Baseline	1.86		25	9.85	26.66	34.22	220.4
					Change from Baseline	-0.02		13.5	-0.07	-20.76	11.12	60.4
					%Change from Baseline	-1.06383		117.3913	-0.705645	-43.779	48.138528	37.75

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PIHNP	TIMP-1
230	230901				Baseline		5.19	60	11.3	191.91	28.21	178.2
					Post Baseline		5.83	51.5	10.86	96.34	29.78	232.2
					Change from Baseline		0.64	-8.5	-0.44	-95.57	1.57	54
					%Change from Baseline		12.331407	-14.16667	-3.893805	-49.79939	5.5654023	30.30303
270	270021				Baseline	1.72		20	10.47	68.85	28.37	197.2
					Post Baseline	1.46	2.81	5	10.16	43.46	31.91	193.8
					Change from Baseline	-0.26		-15	-0.31	-25.39	3.54	-3.4
					%Change from Baseline	-15.11628		-75	-2.96084	-36.87727	12.47797	-1.724138
310	310901				Baseline	3.42		30.7	9.71	48.33	12.98	271.7
					Post Baseline	1.95		25	9.95	63.05	10.45	426.4
					Change from Baseline	-1.47		-5.7	0.24	14.72	-2.53	154.7
					%Change from Baseline	-42.98246		-18.56678	2.4716787	30.457273	-19.49153	56.937799

Excluded from the Population

SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
330	330016				Baseline	1.85		14.3	11.37	103.5	63.06	172.8
					Post Baseline	2		25	11.17	67.81	64.66	250.8
					Change from Baseline	0.15		10.7	-0.2	-35.69	1.6	78
					%Change from Baseline	8.1081081		74.825175	-1.759015	-34.48309	2.5372661	45.138889
	330901				Baseline	2.6		26.1	9.64	29.27	24.54	198.7
					Post Baseline	1.77		54	8.06	24.2	3.58	211.9
					Change from Baseline	-0.83		27.9	-1.58	-5.07	-20.96	13.2
					%Change from Baseline	-31.92308		106.89655	-16.39004	-17.32149	-85.41157	6.6431807
470	470003				Baseline	1.4	8.04	8.3	12.14	241.16	49.07	319
					Post Baseline	1.9	7.61	9	9.86	46.47	18.53	216.8
					Change from Baseline	0.5	-0.43	0.7	-2.28	-194.69	-30.54	-102.2
					%Change from Baseline	35.714286	-5.348259	8.4337349	-18.78089	-80.73064	-62.23762	-32.03762

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PIINP	TIMP-1
470	470007				Baseline	1.82	5.8	8.5	10.11	116.08	8.36	262.8
					Post Baseline	1.81	6.8	2	9.49	34.3	15.47	231.4
					Change from Baseline	-0.01	1	-6.5	-0.62	-81.78	7.11	-31.4
					%Change from Baseline	-0.549451	17.241379	-76.47059	-6.132542	-70.45141	85.047847	-11.94825
470	470015				Baseline	1.14	3.62	35.1	12.02	214.93	54.26	248.6
					Post Baseline	1.41	4.82	105.7	10.82	88.69	27.01	302.4
					Change from Baseline	0.27	1.2	70.6	-1.2	-126.24	-27.25	53.8
					%Change from Baseline	23.684211	33.149171	201.1396	-9.983361	-58.7354	-50.22116	21.641191
	470901				Baseline	1.43	5.5	17				
					Post Baseline	1.49	5.06	12	10.94	69.51	44.69	264.3
					Change from Baseline	0.06	-0.44	-5				
					%Change from Baseline	4.1958042	-8	-29.41176				

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
470	470902				Baseline	1.35	7.24	1	9.78	27.11	31.79	205.5
					Post Baseline	1.76	6.71	17.4	9.89	25.4	35.05	255.3
					Change from Baseline	0.41	-0.53	16.4	0.11	-1.71	3.26	49.8
					%Change from Baseline	30.37037	-7.320442	1640	1.1247444	-6.307636	10.254797	24.233577
490	490009				Baseline	2.31		13.7	10.56	72.62	28.23	218.6
					Post Baseline			11	10.02	30.57	32.13	285.9
					Change from Baseline			-2.7	-0.54	-42.05	3.9	67.3
					%Change from Baseline			-19.70803	-5.113636	-57.90416	13.81509	30.786825
	490901				Baseline	2.4		21.5	10.66	46.88	52.31	226.1
					Post Baseline	2.43		57	10.1	67.86	14.74	274.1
					Change from Baseline	0.03		35.5	-0.56	20.98	-37.57	48
					%Change from Baseline	1.25		165.11628	-5.253283	44.75256	-71.82183	21.229544

Excluded from the Population												
SiteID	Subject	ITT	Protocol	Completers	Visit	USWE	MRE	BNP	ELF Score	HA	PHINP	TIMP-1
490	490902				Baseline	1.94		33.5	10.5	39.01	52.18	223.2
					Post Baseline	1.95		23	10.94	66.72	49.99	235
					Change from Baseline	0.01		-10.5	0.44	27.71	-2.19	11.8
					%Change from Baseline	0.5154639		-31.34328	4.1904762	71.033068	-4.19701	5.2867384
	490903				Baseline	2.83		7	9.55	29.36	22	194.5
					Post Baseline	2.47		12.8	10.06	24.24	43.98	283.9
					Change from Baseline	-0.36		5.8	0.51	-5.12	21.98	89.4
					%Change from Baseline	-12.72085		82.857143	5.3403141	-17.43869	99.909091	45.96401

*subject is excluded from the respective population

5

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5 Having described our invention, we claim:

1. A method of treating a patient having impaired liver function characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for improving the function of the impaired liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of
10 metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of
15 treatment to improve the patient's liver function, said method comprising:
orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for improving the liver function of the patient's impaired liver.
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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of
25 below 11.3.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.
- 30 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
- 35 8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA
40 biomarker levels are reduced.

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11. A method according to claim 1, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

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12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the duration of the improvement in liver function continues for at least about 12 months.

13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the duration of the improvement in liver function continues for at least about 18 months.

15

14. A method of treating a patient having liver fibrosis to regress or reverse the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis, wherein the patient's liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, for improving or maintaining functional performance of the fibrotic liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to regress or reverse the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis and to improve or maintain the function of the fibrotic liver, said method comprising:

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orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patient's elevated ELF score for regressing or reversing the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and improving or maintaining the functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver.

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15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

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16. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

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17. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

- 5 18. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
19. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
- 10 20. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
21. A method according to claim 14, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
22. A method according to claim 14, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA
15 biomarker levels are reduced.
23. A method according to claim 14, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 20 24. A method according to claim 14, wherein the duration of the regressing or reversing the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and improving or maintaining the functional performance of the patient's fibrotic live continues for at least about 12 months.
- 25 25. A method according to claim 14, wherein the duration of the regressing or reversing the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and improving or maintaining the functional performance of the patient's fibrotic live continues for at least about 18 months.
26. A method of treating a patient having liver fibrosis to transform the patient's fibrotic liver into a less fibrotic liver and improve or maintain functional performance of the fibrotic liver, wherein the
30 patient's degree or level of liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein
35 an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to transform the patient's fibrotic liver to a less fibrotic liver and improve or maintain the liver function of the fibrotic liver, said method comprising
40 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the

- 5 ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for transforming the patient's fibrotic liver into a liver with a lesser degree or level of fibrosis and improving or maintaining functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver.
27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
10 fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
28. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.
- 15 29. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.
30. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
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31. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
32. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
- 25 33. A method according to claim 26, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
34. A method according to claim 26, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 30 35. A method according to claim 26, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
36. A method according to claim 26, wherein the duration of the transformation of the patient's fibrotic liver into a liver with a lesser degree or level of fibrosis and improvement or maintenance of
35 functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.
37. A method according to claim 26, wherein the duration of the transformation of the patient's fibrotic liver into a liver with a lesser degree or level of fibrosis and improvement or maintenance of functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.
40

5 38. A method of treating a patient who has a fibrotic liver for preventing or slowing further progression of liver fibrogenesis and a decline in functional performance of the fibrotic liver, wherein the patient's degree or level of liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a
 10 tissue inhibitor of) metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis,
 15 and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent or slow further liver fibrogenesis progression and the decline in functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver, said method comprising;

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the
 20 ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for preventing or slowing the rate of further liver fibrogenesis progression and the decline in functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver.

39. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
 25 fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

40. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

30 41. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

42. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.

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43. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

44. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.

40 45. A method according to claim 38, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

- 5 46. A method according to claim 38, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
47. A method according to claim 38, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 10 48. A method according to claim 38, wherein the duration of the prevention or slowing of the rate of the liver fibrogenesis progression and the decline in functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.
- 15 49. A method according to claim 38, wherein the duration of the prevention or slowing of the rate of the liver fibrogenesis progression and the decline in functional performance of the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.
- 20 50. A method of treating a patient who has a fibrotic liver for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and stabilizing and maintaining the functional performance of the fibrotic liver, wherein the patient's degree or level of liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1
- 25 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to stabilize
- 30 or maintain the degree or level of the liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and the functional performance of the fibrotic liver, said method comprising:
- orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's
- 35 fibrotic liver and the functional performance of the fibrotic liver.
51. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
- 40 52. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

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53. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

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54 A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.

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55. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

56. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.

57. A method according to claim 50, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

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58. A method according to claim 50, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

59. A method according to claim 50, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

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60. A method according to claim 50, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and the functional performance of the fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.

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61. A method according to claim 50, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver and the functional performance of the fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.

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62. A method of treating a patient who has a fibrotic liver for slowing decline of liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver, wherein the patient's degree or level of liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score

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5 below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to slow
the decline of the liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver, said method comprising:
orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the
ECM marker set for slowing the rate of decline of the liver functionality impairment in the patient's
10 fibrotic liver.

63. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

15 64. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score
of below 11.3.

65. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score
of below 9.9.

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66. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score
of below 7.7.

67. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

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68. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.

69. A method according to claim 62, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

30 70. A method according to claim 62, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA
biomarker levels are reduced.

71. A method according to claim 62, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA
biomarker levels are reduced.

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72. A method according to claim 62, wherein the duration of the slowing the rate of decline of the
liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.

73. A method according to claim 62, wherein the duration of the slowing the rate of decline of
40 the liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.

5 74. A method of treating a patient who has a fibrotic liver for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver, wherein the patient's degree or level of liver fibrosis is characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score, by
10 reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein
15 an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to stabilize or maintain the degree or level of liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of liver functionality impairment in
20 the patient's fibrotic liver.

75. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

25 76. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

77. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

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78. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.

79. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

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80. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.

81. A method according to claim 74, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

40 82. A method according to claim 74, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

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83. A method according to claim 74, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

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84. A method according to claim 74, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.

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85. A method according to claim 74, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of liver functionality impairment in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.

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86. A method of treating a patient having liver fibrosis characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for regressing or reversing the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to regress or reverse degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis, said method comprising:

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orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for regressing or reversing the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver.

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87. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

88. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

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89. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

- 5 90. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
91. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
- 10 92. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
93. A method according to claim 86, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
- 15 94. A method according to claim 86, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
95. A method according to claim 86, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 20 96. A method according to claim 86, wherein the duration of the regression or reversion of the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.
97. A method according to claim 86, wherein the duration of the regression or reversion of the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.
- 25 98. A method of treating a patient having a fibrotic liver characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for transforming the fibrotic liver into a less fibrotic liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of
- 30 metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of
- 35 treatment to lower or reduce the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver, said method comprising:
- orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set for reducing the patients elevated ELF score for lowering or reducing the degree or
- 40 level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver.

- 5 99. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
100. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.
- 10 101. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.
102. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
- 15 103. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
104. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
- 20 105. A method according to claim 98, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
106. A method according to claim 98, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 25 107. A method according to claim 98, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
108. A method according to claim 98, wherein the duration of the lowering or reduction of the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.
- 30 109. A method according to claim 98, wherein the duration of the lowering or reduction of the degree or level of fibrosis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.
- 35 110. A method of treating a patient having liver fibrosis characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for preventing or slowing the rate of liver fibrogenesis in the patient's fibrotic liver, by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score
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5 between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of preventing or slowing the rate of liver fibrogenesis progression in the patient's fibrotic liver, said method comprising:

10 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patient's elevated ELF score for preventing or slowing the rate of liver fibrogenesis in the patient's fibrotic liver.

111. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
15 fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

112. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

20 113. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

114. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.

25 115. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

116. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.

30 117. A method according to claim 110, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

118. A method according to claim 110, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

35 119. A method according to claim 110, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

120. A method according to claim 110, wherein the duration of the prevention or slowing of the rate of liver fibrogenesis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 12 months.

- 5 121. A method according to claim 110, wherein the duration of the prevention or slowing of the rate of liver fibrogenesis in the patient's fibrotic liver continues for at least about 18 months.
122. A method of treating a patient having liver fibrosis characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of liver fibrosis in the
10 patient by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score
15 between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment for liver fibrosis stabilization or maintenance, said method comprising:
- orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
20 acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for stabilizing or maintaining the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis.
123. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
25 fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
124. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.
- 30 125. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.
126. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
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127. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
128. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
- 40 129. A method according to claim 122, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

5 130. A method according to claim 122, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

131. A method according to claim 122, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

10 132. A method according to claim 122, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis continues for at least about 12 months.

133. A method according to claim 122, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of
15 the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis continues for at least about 18 months.

134. A method of reducing a patient's enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score whose fibrotic liver is characterized by an elevated ELF score for maintaining or slowing the rate of decline in the function of the patient's fibrotic liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is
20 characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7
25 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to reduce the patient's elevated ELF score, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the
30 ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for improving or maintaining the patient's fibrotic liver functionality.

135. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

35 136. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

137. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score
40 of below 9.9.

- 5 138. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
139. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
- 10 140. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
141. A method according to claim 134, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
142. A method according to claim 134, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA
15 biomarker levels are reduced.
143. A method according to claim 134, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 20 144. A method according to claim 134, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis continues for at least about 12 months.
145. A method according to claim 134, wherein the duration of the stabilization or maintenance of the degree or level of the patient's liver fibrosis continues for at least about 18 months.
- 25 146. A method of treating a patient having impaired liver function characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for preventing decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a
30 tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis,
35 and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent the decline in function of the patient's functionally liver function, said method comprising:
- orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients elevated ELF score for preventing the decline in the function
40 of the patient's functionally impaired liver.

- 5 147. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.
148. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.
- 10 149. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.
150. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.
- 15 151. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.
152. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's PIIINP biomarker level is reduced.
- 20 153. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.
154. A method according to claim 146, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
- 25 155. A method according to claim 146, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.
156. A method according to claim 146, wherein the duration of the prevention of the decline in the function of the patient's functionally impaired liver continues for at least about 12 months.
- 30 157. A method according to claim 146, wherein the duration of the prevention of the decline in the function of the patient's functionally impaired liver continues for at least about 18 months.
- 35 158. A method of treating a patient with impaired liver function characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for slowing the decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver by reducing the elevated ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score
- 40

5 between 9.9 and 11.3 characterizes severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score between 7.7 and 9.9 characterizes moderate fibrosis, wherein an ELF score below 7.7 characterizes no or weak fibrosis, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to slow the decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver, said method comprising:

10 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patient's elevated ELF score for slowing the decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver.

159. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's elevated ELF score correlates to
15 fibrotic stages in chronic liver disease.

160. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 11.3.

20 161. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 9.9.

162. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's ELF score is reduced to an ELF score of below 7.7.

25 163. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's IMP-1 biomarker level is reduced.

164. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's PIINP biomarker level is reduced.

30 165. A method according to claim 146, wherein the patient's HA biomarker level is reduced.

166. A method according to claim 146, wherein any two of the patient's IMP-1, PIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

35 167. A method according to claim 146, wherein all three of the patient's IMP-1, PIINP and HA biomarker levels are reduced.

168. A method according to claim 146, wherein the duration of the slowing of the decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver continues for at least about 12 months.

5 169. A method according to claim 146, wherein the duration of the slowing of the decline in function of the patient's functionally impaired liver continues for at least about 18 months.

170. A method of treating a patient with a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a cirrhotic liver, and having impaired liver function for converting the
10 cirrhotic liver to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated cirrhotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF
15 score correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's cirrhotic liver and liver function are characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score to improve the patient's impaired liver
20 function, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients said elevated ELF score for the patient's cirrhotic liver to convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe
25 fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved.

171. A method according to claim 170, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver
30 cirrhosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes severe fibrosis.

172. A method according to anyone of claims 170-171, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

35 173. A method according to anyone of claims 170-172, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

174. A method according to anyone of claims 170-172, wherein the said effective amount of
40 udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral

5 administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

175. A method according to anyone of claims 170-174, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

176. A method according to claim 175, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

15 177. A method according to claim 176, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

178. A method according to anyone of claims 170-177, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.

179. A method according to anyone of claims 170-177, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.

180. A method of treating a patient with a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a severe fibrotic liver, and having impaired liver function for converting the severe fibrotic liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated severe fibrotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's severe fibrotic liver and impaired liver function are characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that

5 correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score to improve the patient's impaired liver function, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients said elevated ELF score for the patient's severe fibrotic liver to
10 convert the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved.

15 181. A method according to claim 180, wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes severe fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes moderate fibrosis.

182. A method according to anyone of claims 180-181, wherein the patient is a single ventricle
20 heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

183. A method according to anyone of claims 180-182, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

25 184. A method according to anyone of claims 180-182, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

30 185. A method according to anyone of claims 180-184, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

186. A method according to claim 185, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule,
35 caplet, pill or the like.

187. A method of claim 186, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

40 188. A method according to anyone of claims 180-187, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a

5 moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.

189. A method according to anyone of claims 180-187, wherein the duration of the conversion of
10 the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.

15 190. A method of treating a patient with a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and having impaired liver function for converting the moderate fibrotic liver to a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker
20 components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's moderate fibrotic liver and impaired liver function are characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's
25 moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score to improve the patient's impaired liver function, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
30 acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients said elevated ELF score for the patient's moderate fibrotic liver to convert the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a
35 mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved.

191. A method according to anyone of claim 190, wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes moderate fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of below about 7.7 characterizes mild fibrosis or a liver free of fibrosis.

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- 5 192. A method according to anyone of claims 191-192, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.
193. A method according to anyone of claims 191-192, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.
- 10 194. A method according to anyone of claims 191-192, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.
- 15 195. A method according to anyone of claim 91-194, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
- 20 196. A method of claim 195, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.
197. A method according to claim 196, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.
- 25 198. A method according to anyone of claims 191-197, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or
- 30 fibrotic-free ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.
199. A method according to anyone of claims 191-197, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to
- 35 a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score and the patient's impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.
- 40 200. A method of treating a patient with a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a cirrhotic liver, and having impaired liver function for converting the

5 cirrhotic liver to (a) a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, (b) a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or (c) a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated cirrhotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's cirrhotic liver and liver function are characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as
10 characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score to improve the patient's impaired liver function, said method comprising:

20 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patient's said elevated ELF score for the patient's cirrhotic liver to convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, a moderate fibrotic liver, as
25 characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved.

30 201. A method according to claim 200, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes severe fibrosis.

35 202. A method according to anyone of claims 200-201, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

203. A method according to anyone of claims 200-202, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

40 204. A method according to anyone of claims 200-202, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral

5 administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

205. A method according to anyone of claims 200-204, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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206. A method according to claim 205, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

15 207. A method according to claim 206, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

208. A method according to anyone of claims 200-207, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.

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209. A method according to anyone of claims 200-207, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.

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210. A method of treating a patient with a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an elevated enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a cirrhotic liver, and having impaired liver function for converting the cirrhotic liver to (a) a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or (b) a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated cirrhotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score

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5 correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's cirrhotic liver and liver function are characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that
10 correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score to improve the patient's impaired liver function, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients said elevated ELF score for the patient's cirrhotic liver to
15 convert the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved.

20 211. A method according to claim 210, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes liver cirrhosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes severe fibrosis.

25 212. A method according to anyone of claims 210-211, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

213. A method according to anyone of claims 210-212, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

30 214. A method according to anyone of claims 210-212, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

35 215. A method according to anyone of claims 210-214, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

40 216. A method according to claim 215, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

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217. A method according to claim 216, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

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218. A method according to anyone of claims 210-217, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.

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219. A method according to anyone of claims 210-217, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's cirrhotic liver, as characterized by the said cirrhotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.

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220. A method of treating a patient with a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and having impaired liver function for converting the severe fibrotic liver to (a) a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or (b) a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, to improve the impaired liver function by reducing the elevated cirrhotic liver ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function, wherein the patient's severe fibrotic liver and liver function are characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to convert the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that, the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver ELF score, to improve the patient's impaired liver function, said method comprising:

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orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to reduce or lower one or more of the elevated biomarker components of the ECM marker set to reduce the patients said elevated ELF score for the patient's severe fibrotic liver to

5 convert the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, and the impaired liver function is improved.

10 221. A method according to claim 220, wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of below about 7.7 characterizes the said mild fibrosis or the liver free of fibrosis.

15 222. A method according to anyone of claims 220-221, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

223. A method according to anyone of claims 220-222, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

20 224. A method according to anyone of claims 220-222, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

25 225. A method according to anyone of claims 220-224, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

30 226. A method according to claim 225, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

227. A method according to claim 226, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

35 228. A method according to anyone of claims 220-227, wherein the duration of conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score

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5 and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 12 months.

229. A method according to anyone of claims 220-227, wherein the duration of the conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, so that the patient's liver function is converted to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and/or a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, and the impaired liver function is improved continues for at least about 18 months.

15 230. A method of treating a patient with a mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by an enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a mild fibrotic liver or fibrotic-free liver, for preventing the conversion of the mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:

20 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score.231.

231. A method according to claim 230, wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of below about 7.7 characterizes the said mild fibrosis or the liver free of fibrosis.

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232. A method according to anyone of claims 230-231, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

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233. A method according to anyone of claims 230-232, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

15

234. A method according to anyone of claims 230-232, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

20

235. A method according to anyone of claim 230-234, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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236. A method according to claim 235, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

237. A method according to claim 236, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

30

238. A method according to anyone of claims 220-227, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 12 months.

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239. A method according to anyone of claims 220-227, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

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5 240. A method of treating a patient with a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and having impaired liver function for preventing the conversion of the moderate fibrotic liver to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said moderate fibrotic ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an
10 extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's impaired liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver to a severe fibrotic
15 liver, so that the patient's impaired liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set
20 to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's impaired liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score.

25 241. A method according to claim 240, wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes the said severe fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis.

30 242. A method according to anyone of claims 240-241, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

243. A method according to anyone of claims 240-242, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

35 244. A method according to anyone of claims 240-242, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration comprises oral administration of two separate daily doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said daily dose is about 87.5 mg.

5 245. A method according to anyone of claim 240-244, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

246. A method according to claim 245, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule,
10 caplet, pill or the like.

247. A method according to claim 246, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

15 248. A method according to anyone of claims 240-247, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's impaired liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score
20 continues for at least about 12 months.

249. A method according to anyone of claims 240-247, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, so that
25 the patient's impaired liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

250. A method of treating a patient with a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an enhanced
30 liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a severe fibrotic liver, and having impaired liver function for preventing the conversion of the severe fibrotic liver to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a cirrhotic fibrotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said severe fibrotic ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-
35 terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's impaired liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver to a cirrhotic liver, so that the patient's impaired liver function remains at a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF
40 score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a cirrhotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:

5 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver ELF score, to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function
10 remains at a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a cirrhotic liver ELF score.

251. A method according to claim 250, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes the said liver cirrhosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes the
15 said severe fibrosis.

252. A method according to anyone of claims 250-251, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

20 253. A method according to anyone of claims 250-252, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

254. A method according to anyone of claims 250-252, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral
25 administration comprises oral administration of two separate daily doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said daily dose is about 87.5 mg.

255. A method according to claim 250-252, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

256. A method according to claim 255, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

35 257. A method according to claim 256, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

258. A method according to anyone of claims 250-257, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver
40 ELF score, to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and does not

5 progress to a level that correlates with a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 12 months.

259. A method according to anyone of claims 250-257, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said severe fibrotic liver
10 ELF score, to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

15 260. A method of treating a patient with a mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by an enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a mild fibrotic liver or fibrotic-free liver, for preventing the conversion of the mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and/or to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said mild
20 fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or
25 fibrotic-free liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver and/or to a severe fibrotic liver, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic and/or a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:
30 orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF
35 score, and/or to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic and/or a severe fibrotic liver ELF score.261.

40 261. A method according to claim 260, wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes the said severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and

5 about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of below about 7.7 characterizes the said mild fibrosis or the liver free of fibrosis.

262. A method according to anyone of claims 260-261, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

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263. A method according to anyone of claims 260-262, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

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264. A method according to anyone of claims 260-262, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

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265. A method according to anyone of claim 260-264, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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266. A method according to claim 265, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

267. A method according to claim 266, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

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268. A method according to anyone of claims 260-267, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF score, and/or to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic and/or a severe fibrotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 12 months.

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269. A method according to anyone of claims 260-267, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF score, and/or to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic

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5 liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic and/or a severe fibrotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

270. A method of treating a patient with a mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by an enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a mild fibrotic liver or fibrotic-free liver, for preventing the conversion of the mild fibrotic liver or a fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver, and/or to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a cirrhotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free ELF score, wherein the ELF score is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to prevent conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to a moderate fibrotic liver, a severe fibrotic liver and/or a cirrhotic liver, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic, a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, and/or to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic, a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score.

271. A method according to claim 270, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes the said liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes the said severe fibrosis, wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of below about 7.7 characterizes the said mild fibrosis or the liver free of fibrosis.

272. A method according to anyone one of claims 270-271, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

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273. A method according to anyone of claims 270-272, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

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274. A method according to anyone of claims 270-272, wherein the said effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral administration is oral administration of two separate doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said dose is about 87.5 mg.

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275. A method according to anyone of claim 270-274, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

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276. A method according to claim 275, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

277. A method according to claim 276, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

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278. A method according to anyone of claims 260-267, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, and/or to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic, a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 12 months.

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279. A method according to anyone of claims 260-267, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by a moderate fibrotic ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic ELF score, and/or to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a mild fibrotic or fibrotic-free fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic, a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

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5 280. A method of treating a patient with a moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by an enhanced liver fibrosis (ELF) score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and having impaired liver function for preventing the conversion of the moderate fibrotic liver to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a severe fibrotic liver and/or to a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by an ELF score for a cirrhotic liver, by maintaining the patient's said moderate fibrotic ELF score, wherein the ELF score
10 is characterized by three biomarker components that together form an extracellular matrix (ECM) marker set comprising (i) a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1), (ii) amino-terminal propeptide of type III procollagen (PIIINP) and (iii) hyaluronic acid (HA), wherein the ELF score correlates to liver function of the patient, wherein the patient's impaired liver function correlates to the said ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver, and wherein the patient is in need of treatment to
15 prevent conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver to a severe fibrotic liver and/or a cirrhotic liver, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score, said method comprising:

orally administering to the patient a daily effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically
20 acceptable salt thereof, to maintain one or more of the biomarker components of the ECM marker set to maintain the patient's said ELF score for a moderate fibrotic liver to prevent the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that
25 correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score.

281. A method according to claim 280, wherein an ELF score above 11.3 characterizes the said liver cirrhosis, wherein an ELF score of between about below 11.3 and about 9.9 characterizes the
30 said severe fibrosis, and wherein an ELF score of between about below 9.9 and about 7.7 characterizes the said moderate fibrosis.

282. A method according to anyone of claims 280-281, wherein the patient is a single ventricle heart disease patient (SVHD) who has had Fontan surgery and has Fontan physiology.

35 283. A method according to anyone of claims 280-282, wherein the effective amount of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is between about 125 mg and 175 mg.

284. A method according to anyone of claims 280-282, wherein the said effective amount of
40 udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is about 175 mg, and wherein the said oral

5 administration comprises oral administration of two separate daily doses of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and each said daily dose is about 87.5 mg.

285. A method according to anyone of claims 280-284, wherein a pharmaceutical composition suitable for oral administration is formulated with the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable
10 salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

286. A method according to claim 285, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a tablet, capsule, caplet, pill or the like.

15 287. A method according to claim 286, wherein the said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of about 87.5 mg.

288. A method according to anyone of claims 280-287, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic
20 liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 12 months.

25 289. A method according to anyone of claims 280-287, wherein the duration of the prevention of the conversion of the patient's moderate fibrotic liver, as characterized by the said moderate fibrotic liver ELF score, to a severe fibrotic liver, as characterized by a severe fibrotic liver ELF score, and/or a cirrhotic liver, as characterized by a cirrhotic liver ELF score, so that the patient's liver function
30 remains at a level that correlates with a moderate fibrotic liver ELF score and does not progress to a level that correlates with a severe fibrotic and/or a cirrhotic liver ELF score continues for at least about 18 months.

290. A method of decreasing, stabilizing, or decreasing the rate of progression of a Fontan
35 patient's hepatic fibrosis, by administering udenafil to the patient in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily.

291. A method of using ELF scores to determine a Fontan patient's deterioration, stabilization, or improvement of liver disease by
measuring the Fontan patient's ELF score;
40 measuring the Fontan patient's ELF score at a later time, and
determining the difference in ELF score,

- 5 wherein the Fontan patient is administered udenafil in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily.
292. A method for diagnosing liver disease in a Fontan patient by using the patient's ELF score.
293. A method of stabilizing, decreasing, or decreasing the progression of hepatic fibrosis in a
10 Fontan patient by
 determining a Fontan patient's ELF score;
 if a patient's ELF score measurement is at least 7.7, administering udenafil in a dosage of
87.5 mg twice daily.
- 15 294. A method of improving a Fontan patient's hepatic fibrosis, as measured by the patient's ELF
score, by administering udenafil at a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily.
295. A method of decreasing hepatic fibrosis in a Fontan patient who has liver disease, as
measured by the Fontan patient's ELF score, by administering udenafil to the Fontan patient in a
20 dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily.
296. A method for treating a patient with single ventricle heart disease, wherein the patient is
suffering from liver disease, the method comprising the steps of:
determining whether the patient has hepatic fibrosis by measuring the patient's ELF score, and if the
25 patient has hepatic fibrosis, as determined by the patient's ELF score, and
administering udenafil to the patient in an amount of 87.5 mg twice daily.
297. A method of monitoring a Fontan patient's hepatic fibrosis by
determining the level of the Fontan patient's hepatic fibrosis by measuring the Fontan
30 patient's ELF score at different times.
298. A method for treating a Fontan patient at risk of having or having a detrimental physiological
effect on the Fontan patient's liver resulting from the Fontan patient's single ventricle heart disease,
wherein the Fontan patient is in need of treatment to prevent or ameliorate the detrimental
35 effect on the patient's liver resulting from the Fontan patient's single ventricle heart disease,
wherein the treatment comprises administering udenafil or pharmacologically acceptable salt
thereof to the patient in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily, and
wherein the treatment causes the physiological condition of the Fontan patient's liver to
stabilize or improve, or to slow the deterioration of the physiological condition of the Fontan patient's
40 liver, as measured by the Fontan patient's ELF score.

299. A method for detecting a change in the level of liver disease in a Fontan patient comprising measuring the Fontan patient's ELF score, administering udenafil to the Fontan patient in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily, thereafter measuring the patient's ELF score, determining the level of the Fontan patient's liver disease based on the patient's ELF score,

and

comparing the second measurement of the Fontan patient's ELF score to the first measurement of the Fontan patient's ELF score.

300. A method for long-term treatment of fibrotic liver disease in a Fontan patient by administration of udenafil in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily for at least 18 months to achieve or increase the likelihood of achieving a more beneficial effect on the Fontan patient's fibrotic liver disease than achieved by administration of udenafil in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily for 12 months or less, wherein the patient's fibrotic liver disease is measured by a baseline ELF score and the more beneficial effect on the patient's fibrotic liver disease is demonstrated by a larger decrease in the patient's ELF score at or after at least 18 months of treatment with a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily of udenafil after the baseline measurement as compared to the patient's ELF score after 12 months of treatment with a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily of udenafil after the baseline measurement.

301. A method for long-term treatment of fibrotic liver disease in a Fontan patient by administration of udenafil in a dosage of 87.5 mg twice daily for at least 18 months to decrease, stabilize, or reduce the rate of increase, of the Fontan patient's fibrotic liver disease.

302. A method for long-term treatment of a liver diseased with fibrosis in a patient, wherein the patient's diseased liver has impaired fibrotic liver function, said method comprising administration of udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to the patient in an effective daily dosage amount of for at least about 12 months to achieve or increase the likelihood of achieving enhanced liver function of the patient's diseased impaired fibrotic liver, as compared to when such a patient is not treated with udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,, wherein the liver function of the patient's diseased fibrotic liver is measured by an ELF score at baseline and again at or after at least 12 months of said udenafil, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, administration to determine the level of the enhanced liver function of the diseased fibrotic liver, as characterized by the later taken ELF score and/or the difference in the ELF scores.

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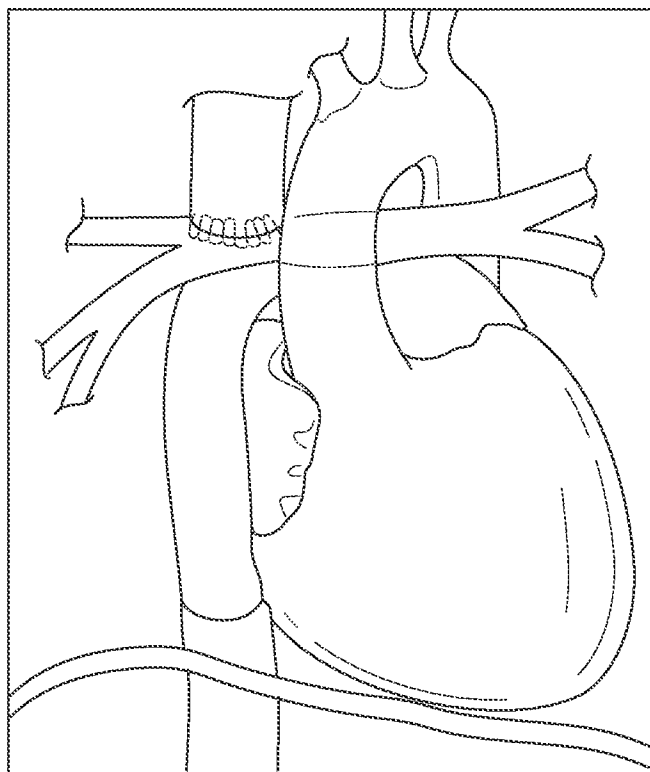


FIG. 1A

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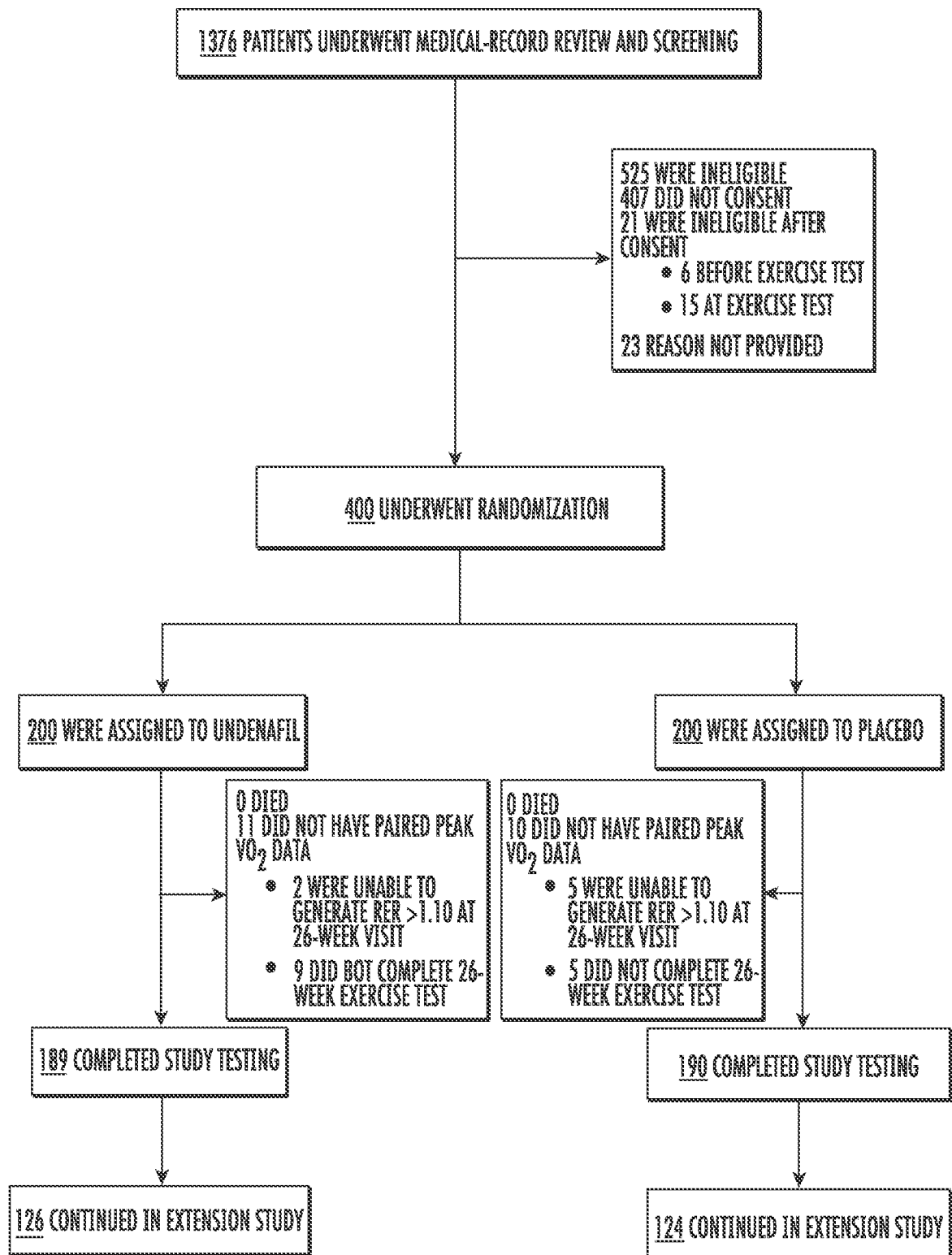


FIG. 1B

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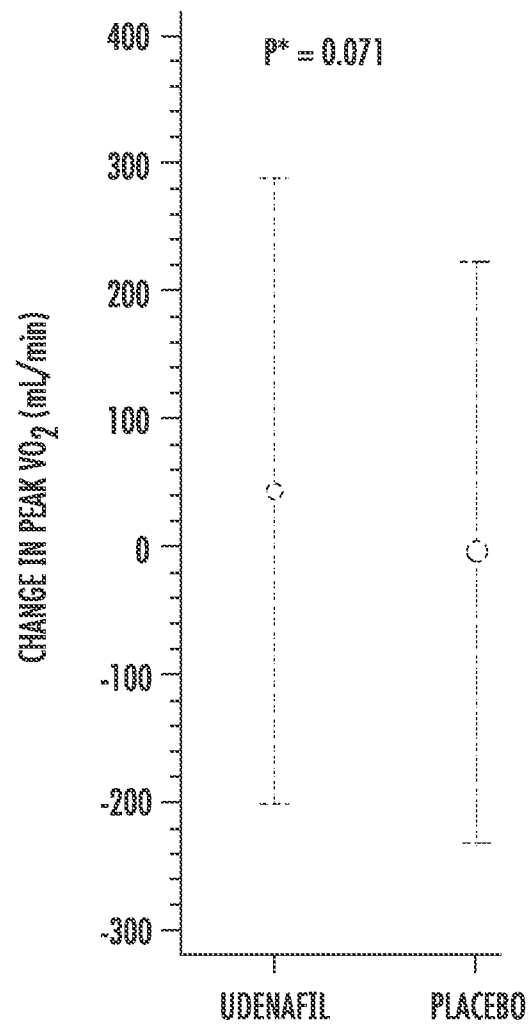


FIG. 2A

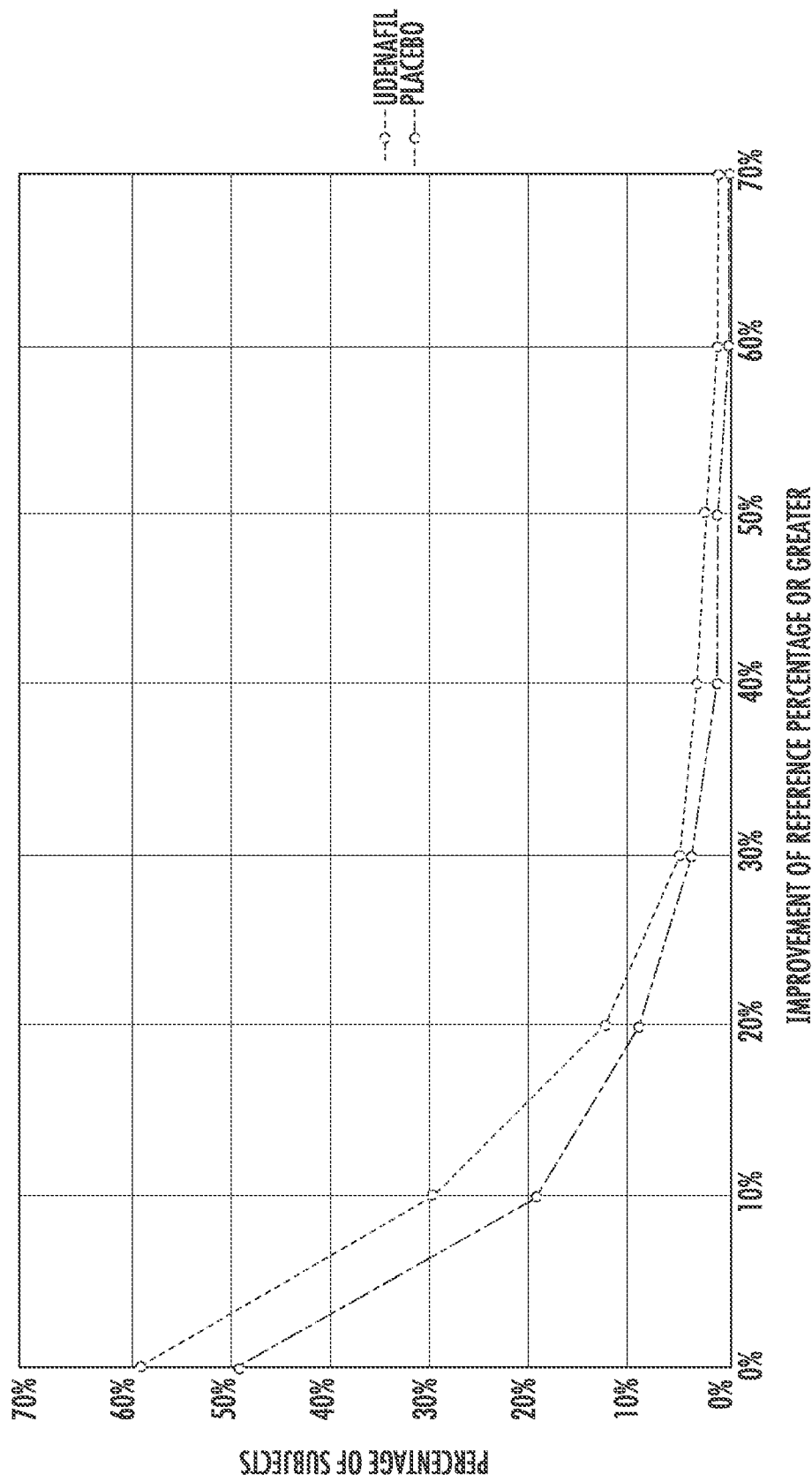


FIG. 2B

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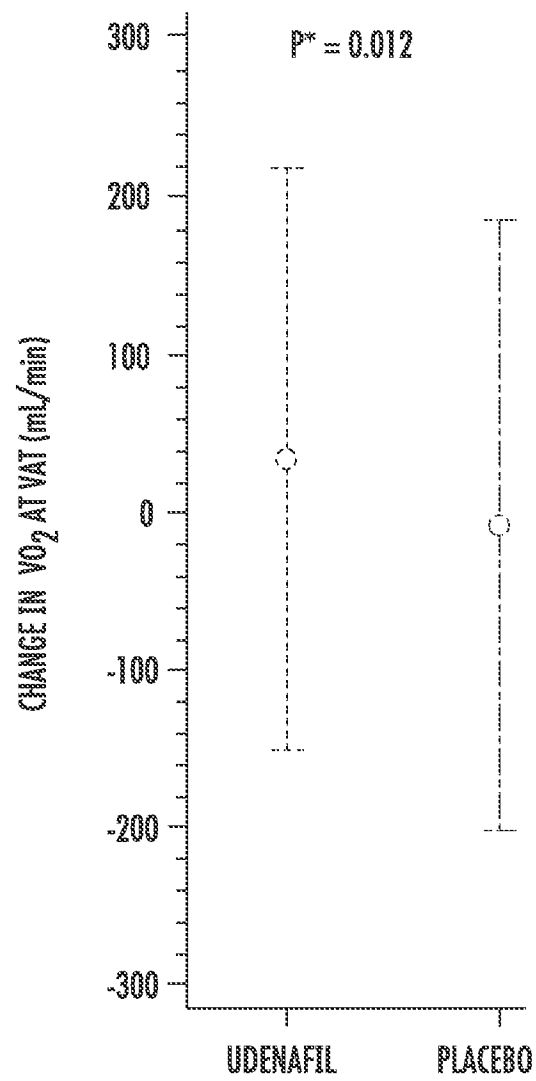


FIG. 3A

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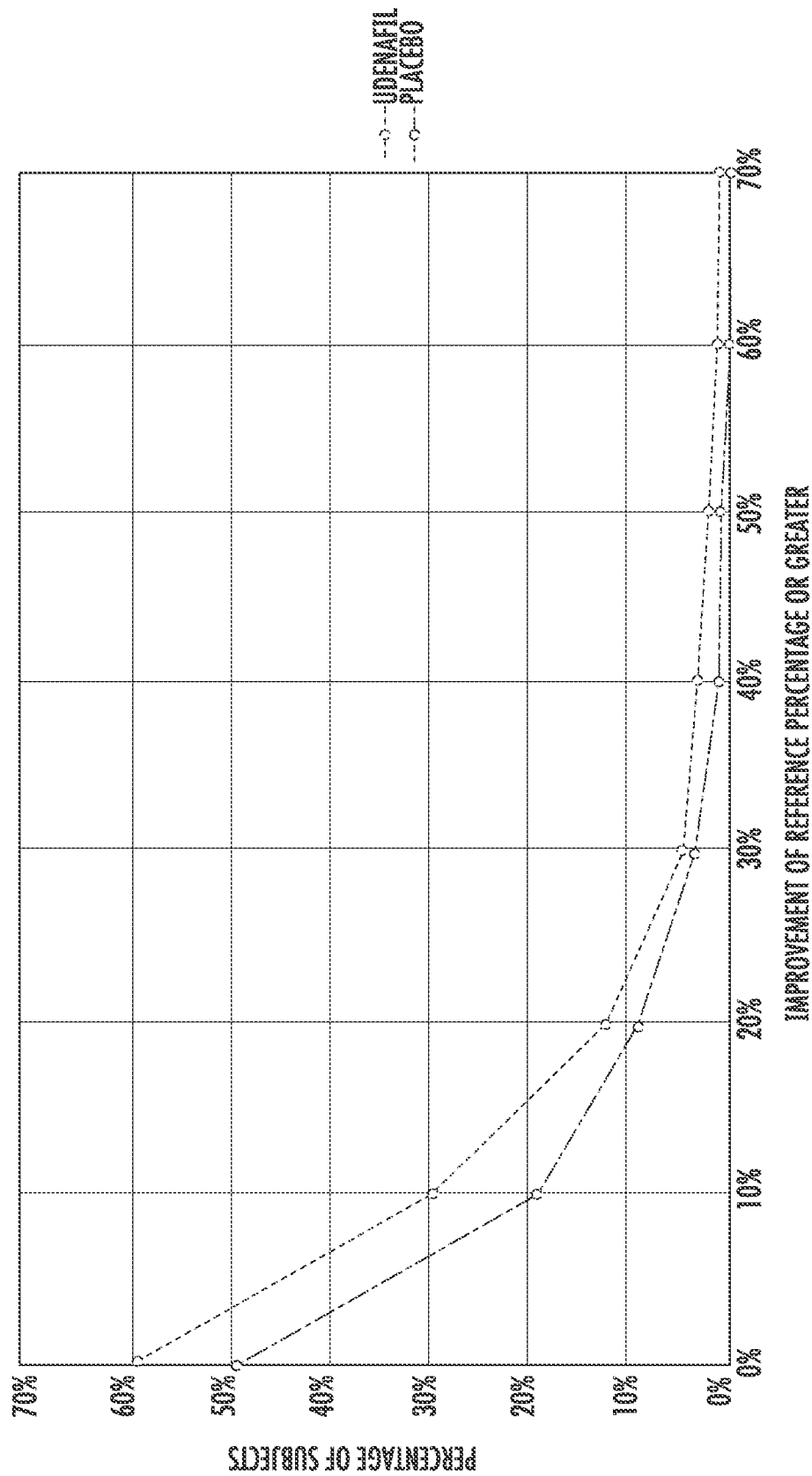


FIG. 3B

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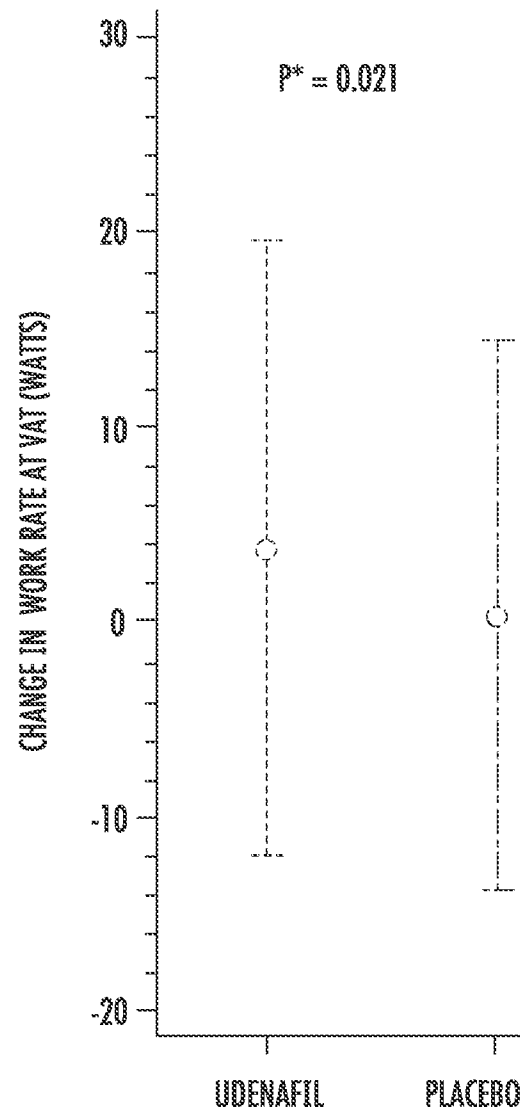


FIG. 4A

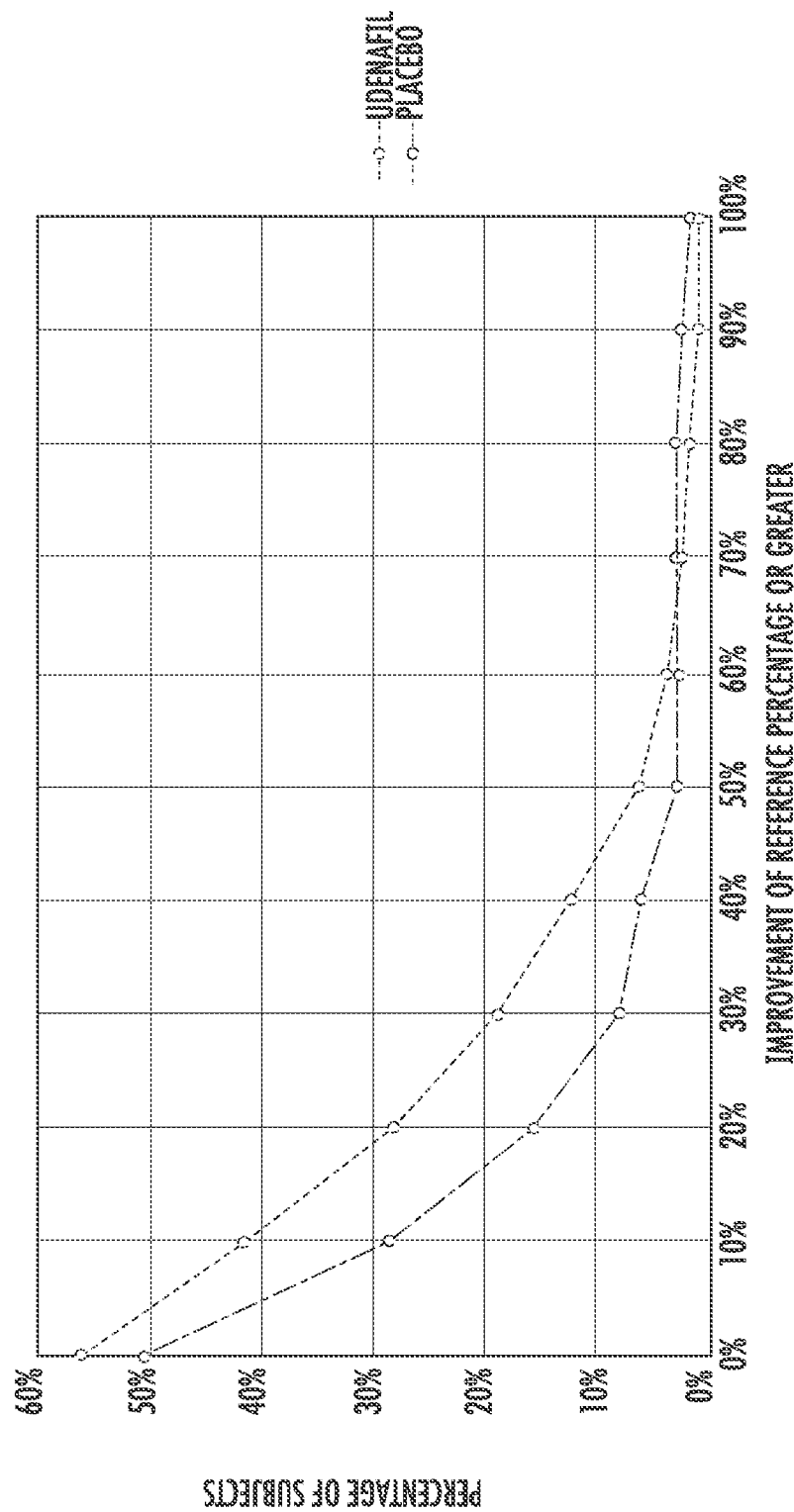


FIG. 4B

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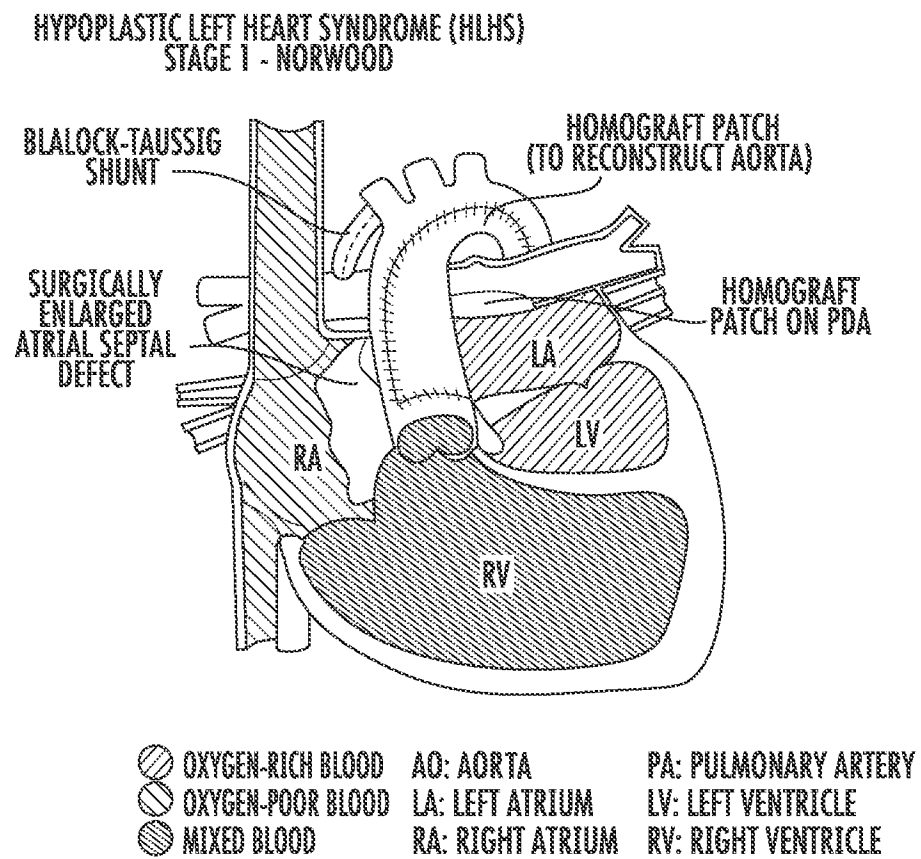


FIG. 5

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HYPOPLASTIC HEART SYNDROME (HLHS)
STAGE 2 - BIDIRECTIONAL GLENN

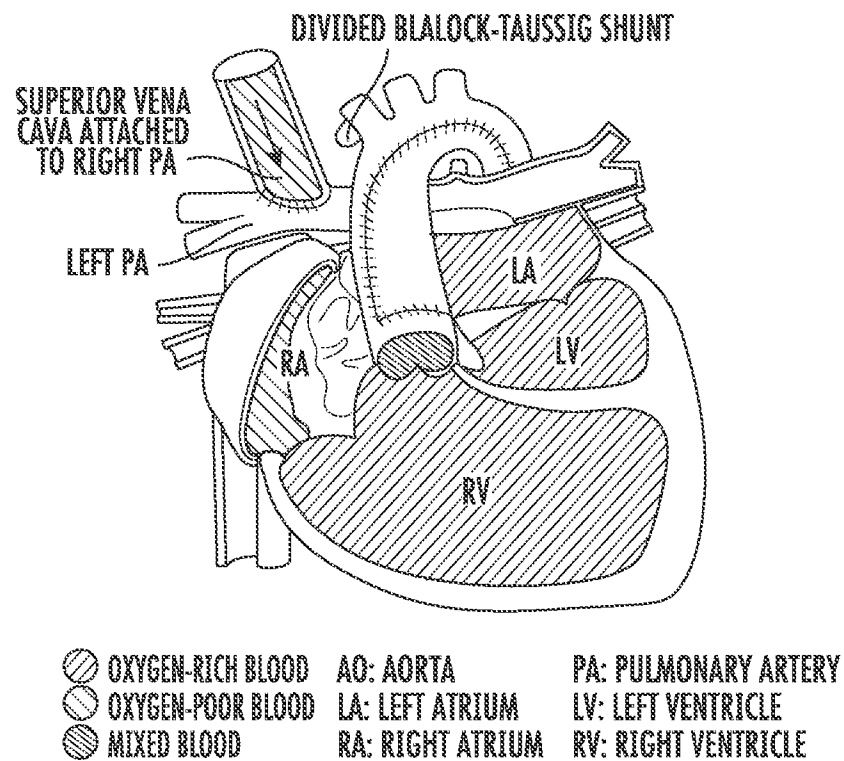


FIG. 6

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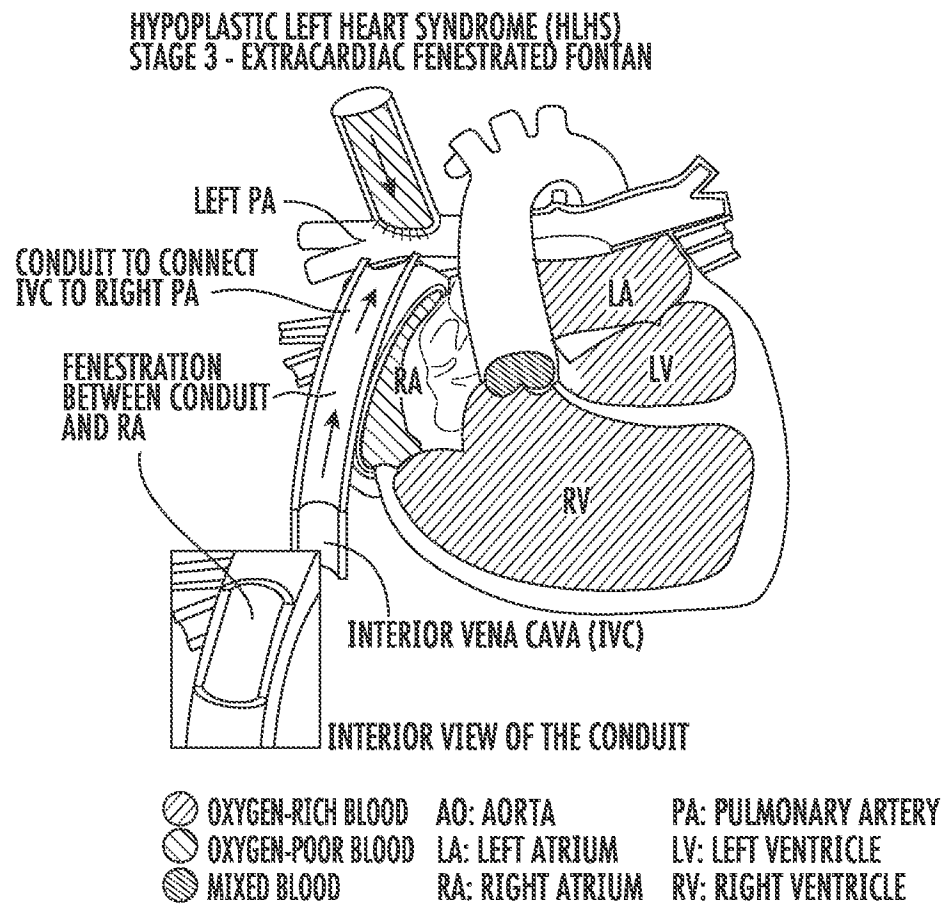


FIG. 7

FIG. 8A
Chart 1A

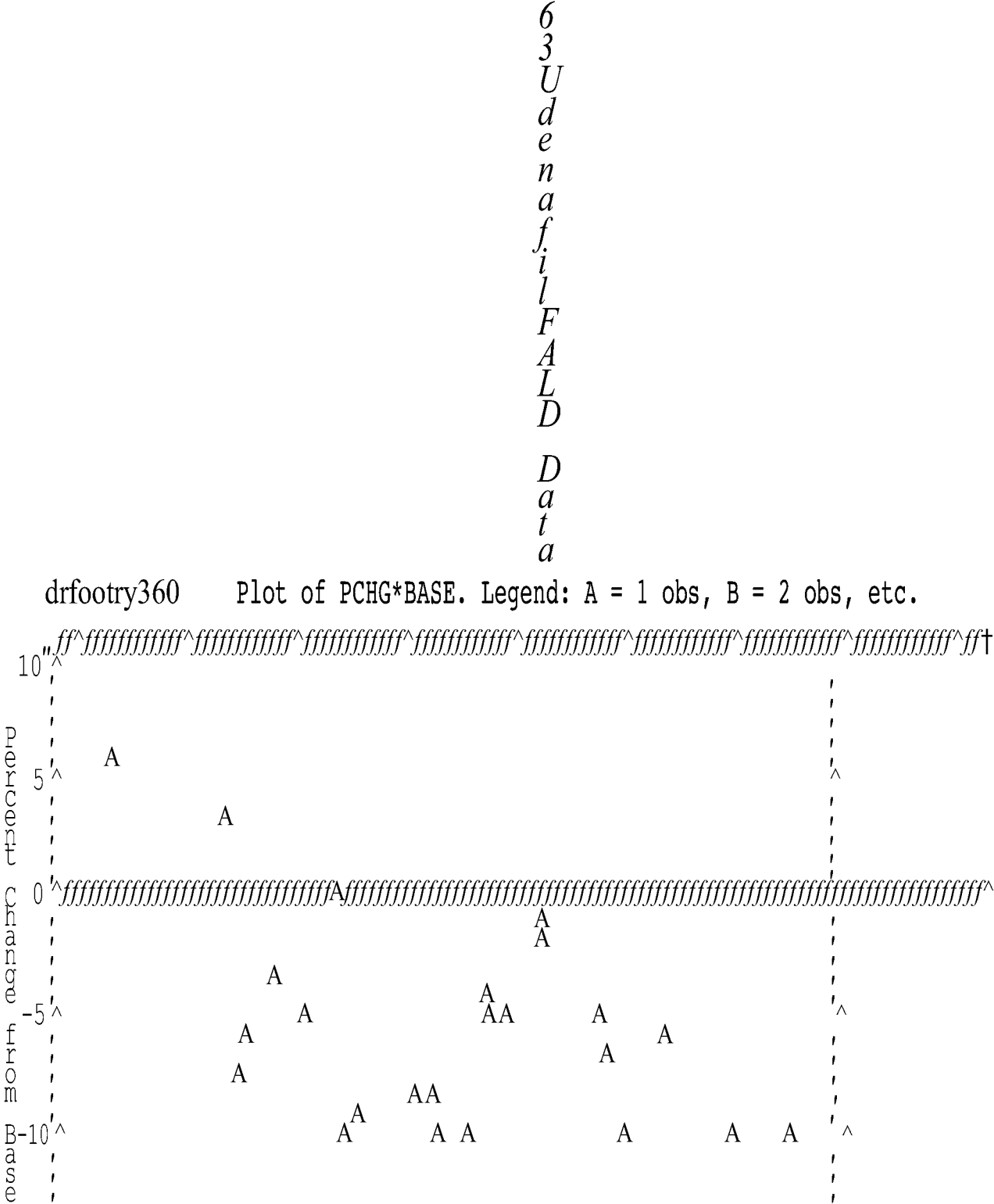
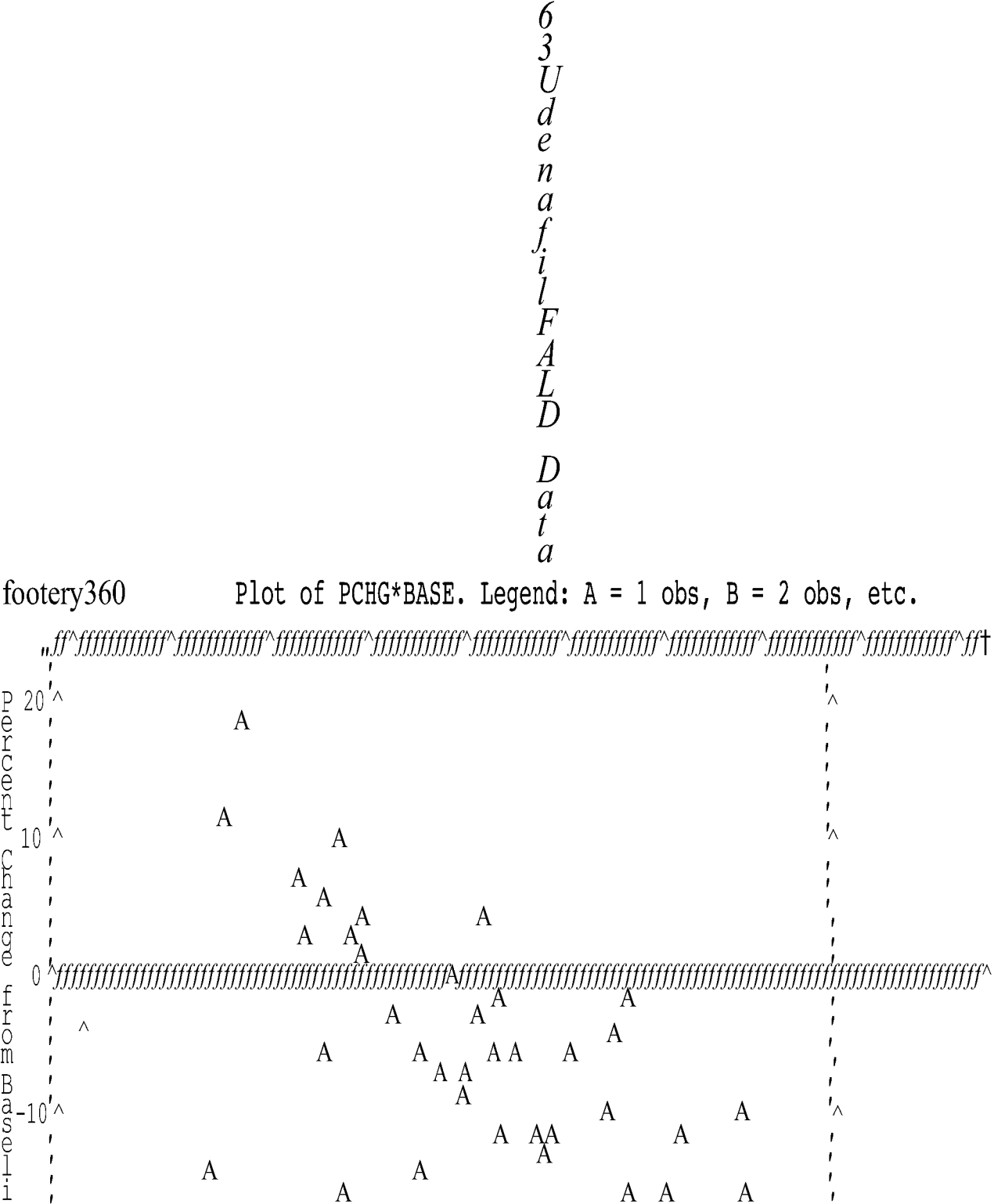


FIG. 8B
Chart 1B



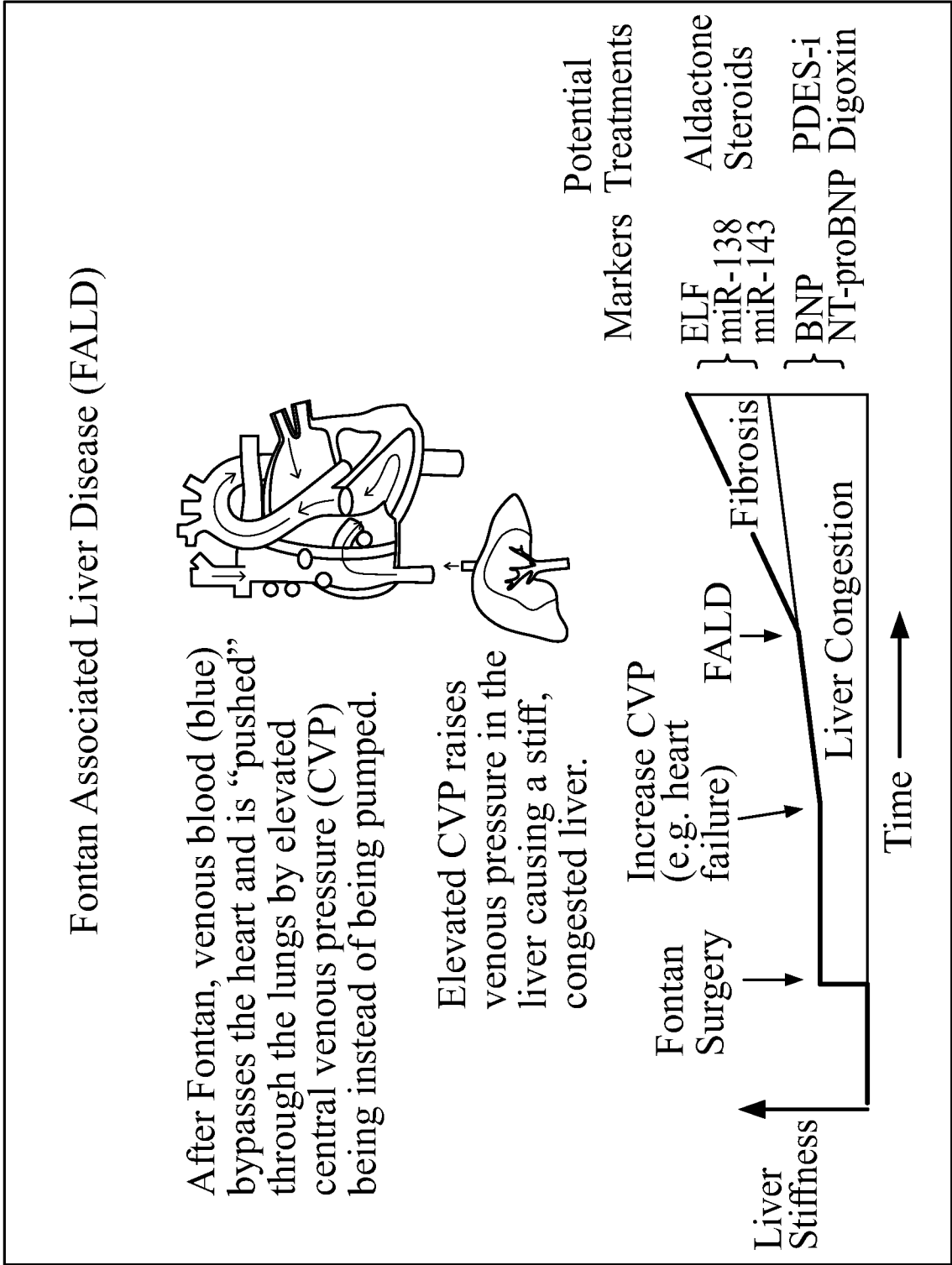


FIG. 9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2022/040227

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

INV. A61K31/519 A61P1/16

ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, CHEM ABS Data, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2006/132460 A1 (DONG A PHARM CO LTD [KR]; CHOI SEUL MIN [KR] ET AL.) 14 December 2006 (2006-12-14) claims 1-5	1-302
Y	-----	1-302
X	CHOI SEUL-MIN ET AL: "Effect of udenafil on portal venous pressure and hepatic fibrosis in rats. A novel therapeutic option for portal hypertension", ARZNEIMITTEL-FORSCHUNG DRUG RESEARCH, ECD EDITTIO CANTOR VERLAG, AULENDORF, DE, vol. 59, no. 12, 1 January 2009 (2009-01-01), pages 641-646, XP001536794, ISSN: 0004-4172	1-302
Y	Abstract; Material and Methods; Results; Discussion table 2 ----- -/--	1-302



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 November 2022

Date of mailing of the international search report

07/12/2022

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Hörtner, Michael

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/US2022/040227

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Anonymous: "Evaluation of Fontan-Associated Liver Disease", ClinicalTrials.gov, 13 February 2018 (2018-02-13), pages 1-7, XP093002322, Internet Retrieved from the Internet: URL: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/record/NCT03430583 [retrieved on 2022-11-28]	1-302
Y	the whole document -----	1-302
Y	LICHTINGHAGEN RALF ET AL: "The Enhanced Liver Fibrosis (ELF) score: Normal values, influence factors and proposed cut-off values", JOURNAL OF HEPATOLOGY, ELSEVIER, AMSTERDAM, NL, vol. 59, no. 2, 21 March 2013 (2013-03-21), pages 236-242, XP028677176, ISSN: 0168-8278, DOI: 10.1016/J.JHEP.2013.03.016 abstract figures 1-4; tables 1-3 -----	1-302
A	ANHYE KIM ET AL: "Population pharmacokinetic analysis to recommend the optimal dose of udenafil in patients with mild and moderate hepatic impairment", BRITISH JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, BLACKWELL SCIENTIFIC PUBL, GB, vol. 82, no. 2, 3 June 2016 (2016-06-03), pages 389-398, XP071602197, ISSN: 0306-5251, DOI: 10.1111/BCP.12977 abstract -----	1-302

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2022/040227

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