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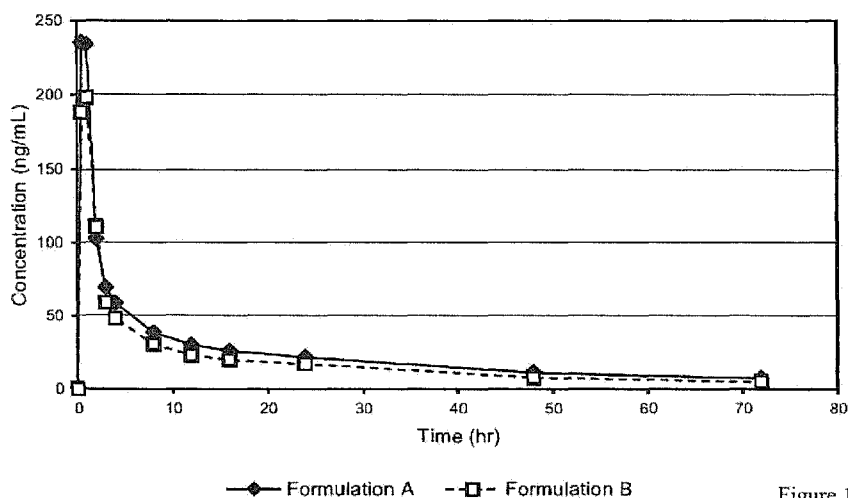


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: The subject matter of the present invention is pertinent to the field of oral delivery of pharmaceutically active agents. Embodiments of the instant invention disclose a liquid or semi-solid non-aqueous oral pharmaceutical fill composition comprising (a) a pharmaceutically effective amount of an unmicronized selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) and (b) a polyethylene glycol (PEG) as well as methods for treating a variety of progesterone related disorders by orally administering such a composition.

**ORAL PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS
COMPRISING AN UNMICRONIZED SELECTIVE
PROGESTERONE RECEPTOR MODULATOR AS ACTIVE AGENT**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[00001] In several embodiments, the present invention relates to oral pharmaceutical compositions comprising a selective progesterone receptor modulator and their use for the treatment of a variety of progesterone related conditions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[00002] The effect of the steroid hormone progesterone on the reproductive system has been well-documented. For example, progesterone is vital to establishing and maintaining pregnancy and exerts actions on various tissues of the reproductive system. The action of progesterone on tissues outside the reproductive system has been reported but is less well characterized.

[00003] Antiprogestins, compounds which inhibit the action of progesterone, have considerable potential for use in the pharmacological regulation of fertility and a variety of conditions and diseases such as breast cancer and endometriosis. The first reported antiprogestin, mifepristone (RU 486), is one of a number of 19-nortestosterone derivatives with strong affinity for both the progesterone and glucocorticoid receptors and with antiprogestational and antiglucocorticoid activity. A variety of antiprogestins based on the 19-norprogesterone backbone have also been synthesized.

[00004] Several drawbacks are associated with the use of known antiprogestins, rendering them less than ideal for chronic administration, particularly when delivered orally. If these and other limitations associated with antiprogestin treatment could be improved, a significant advance in the treatment of hormone-dependent disorders would result.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[00005] In one embodiment, the present invention provides a capsule suitable for oral administration containing a non-aqueous capsule fill composition comprising an unmiconized selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) in liquid or semi-solid solution with a polyethylene glycol (PEG). Preferably, the SPRM is in a non-miconized crystal form. The capsule may be a gelatin capsule, preferably an immediate release hard gelatin capsule.

[00006] In another embodiment, the present invention provides a liquid or semi-solid non-aqueous oral pharmaceutical fill composition for capsule dosage form, said composition comprising, consisting essentially of, or consisting of (a) a pharmaceutically effective amount of an unmiconized selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) per capsule dosage unit (b) polyethylene glycol (PEG) and optionally (c) a preservative, preferably BHT.

[00007] In a preferred embodiment, the PEG has an average molecular weight of about 1000 (PEG 1000). In a particularly preferred embodiment, the present invention provides a hard gelatin capsule containing a capsule fill composition consisting of unmiconized CDB-4124 in liquid or semi-solid solution with PEG 1000 and optionally a preservative such as butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT). In a preferred embodiment, the capsule fill composition consists of about 12 mg of unmiconized CDB-4124 in liquid or semi-solid solution with PEG 1000 and optionally BHT. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the capsule fill composition consists of about 4% by weight of CDB-4124, about 95.98% by weight of PEG 1000 and about 0.02% by weight of BHT.

[00008] In a related embodiment, a method of making a solid oral dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an SPRM and a PEG is provided, which method comprises adding a molten solution of SPRM and said PEG to hard gelatin capsules and allowing said molten solution to cool therein, with the proviso that the SPRM is not miconized.

[00009] In other embodiments, the present invention provides methods for the treatment of a variety of progesterone related conditions in a patient in need of such treatment by orally administering a hard or soft gelatin capsule containing a non-aqueous capsule fill composition comprising an unmiconized selective

progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) in liquid or semi-solid solution with a polyethylene glycol (PEG) to a patient in need of such treatment.

[00010] Progesterone-related conditions that may be treated with the liquid of the invention include, without limitation, endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, endocrine hormone-dependent tumors, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer and breast cancer. Compositions of the instant invention may also be used to induce menses, to induce labor and for contraception.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[00011] Fig. 1 illustrates a linear plot of mean plasma concentrations for telapristone (CDB-4124) vs time following oral administration of either of two oral formulations (Formulation A or Formulation B).

[00012] Fig. 2 illustrates a semi-log plot of mean plasma concentrations for telapristone vs time for either of two oral formulations (Formulation A or Formulation B).

[00013] Fig. 3 illustrates a linear plot of mean plasma concentrations for telapristone metabolite CDB-4453 vs time following oral administration of either of two oral formulations (Formulation A or Formulation B).

[00014] Fig. 4 illustrates a semi-log plot of mean plasma concentrations for CDB-4453 vs time for either of two oral formulations (Formulation A or Formulation B).

[00015] Fig. 5 illustrates mean and standard deviation for C_{max} (ng/ml) for telapristone and CDB-4453 for Formulation A and Formulation B.

[00016] Fig. 6. Illustrates mean and standard deviation for AUC_{0-t} for telapristone and CDB-4453 for Formulation A and Formulation B.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[00017] While the present invention is capable of being embodied in various forms, the description below of several embodiments is made with the understanding that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the invention, and is not intended to limit the invention to the specific

embodiments illustrated. Headings are provided for convenience only and are not to be construed to limit the invention in any way. Embodiments illustrated under any heading may be combined with embodiments illustrated under any other heading.

[00018] It is to be understood that any ranges, ratios and ranges of ratios that can be formed by any of the numbers or data present herein represent further embodiments of the present invention. This includes ranges that can be formed that do or do not include a finite upper and/or lower boundary. Accordingly, the skilled person will appreciate that many such ratios, ranges and ranges of ratios can be unambiguously derived from the data and numbers presented herein and all represent embodiments of the invention.

[00019] Before the present compounds, compositions and methods are disclosed and described, it is to be understood that the terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. It must be noted that, as used in the present specification and the appended claims, the singular forms “a,” “an” and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

[00020] Definitions

[00021] The term “capsule” refers to a hard or soft shell pharmaceutical capsule. The capsule consists of a body and cap and may comprise a fill composition containing a pharmacologically active agent.

[00022] The term “oral” administration means that the active agent is in a formulation designed to be ingested, i.e. designed to be delivered to the gastrointestinal system for absorption.

[00023] The term “effective dosage” means an amount of the composition’s active component sufficient to treat a particular condition.

[00024] The term “selective progesterone receptor modulators” means compounds that affect functions of progesterone receptor in a tissue-specific manner. The compounds act as progesterone receptor antagonists in some tissues (for example, in breast tissue) and as progesterone receptor agonists in other tissues (for example, in the uterus).

[00025] The term “treat” or “treatment” as used herein refers to any treatment of any progesterone-dependent disorder or disease, and includes, but is not limited to, inhibiting the disorder or disease arresting the development of the disorder or

disease; relieving the disorder or disease, for example, causing regression of the disorder or disease; or relieving the condition caused by the disease or disorder, relieving the symptoms of the disease or disorder.

[00026] The term “prevent” or “prevention,” in relation to a progesterone-dependent disorder or disease, means preventing the onset of disorder or disease development if none had occurred, or preventing further disorder or disease development if the disorder or disease was already present. For example, compositions of the present invention may be used to prevent the recurrence of tumors. Recurrence of tumors may occur because of residual microscopic groups or nests of tumor cells which subsequently expand into clinically detectable tumors.

[00027] The term “progesterone agonist” means a compound that binds to a progesterone receptor and mimics the action of the natural hormone.

[00028] The term “progesterone antagonist” means a compound that binds to a progesterone receptor and inhibits the effect of progesterone.

[00029] SPRMs such as CDB-4124 (Proellex; telapristone; 21-methoxy-17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4 N, N-dimethylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-diene-3,20-dione) are hydrophobic and costly to synthesize. Micronization of these drugs improves solubility and bioavailability. Unfortunately, micronization of CDB-4124 is a time consuming and expensive endeavor and moreover results in a significant loss of the active agent. Further, an inherent drawback of micronization is that the material obtained must comply with stringent particle size specifications and the filling of hard gelatin capsules with micronized powder is a difficult operation, particularly if weight variation homogeneity is considered.

[00030] The present inventors have surprisingly discovered that the present composition avoids the need for micronizing the SPRM, while providing a bioavailability comparable and even favorable to that afforded by conventional SPRM compositions which employ micronization when administered orally. Compared to a fill composition in which CDB-4124 is micronized, the present fill composition has a lower C_{max} and higher $AUC_{0-\infty}$ when administered orally. Reduction of C_{max} while maintaining exposure of the active agent has important safety advantages since liver toxicity is concentration dependent for SPRMs such as CDB-4124 and it has previously been shown that C_{max} is most relevant due to

higher concentrations of the drug leading to the formation of stable adducts to liver proteins.

[00031] In several embodiments, the present invention relates to a non-aqueous liquid or semi-liquid oral pharmaceutical fill composition for capsule dosage form, said composition consisting essentially of or consisting of an unmicronized SPRM and a PEG. In preferred embodiments, the SPRM is CDB-4124 and the PEG is PEG 1000. In particularly preferred embodiments, the capsule fill composition consists of or consists essentially of about 12 mg of unmicronized CDB-4124 and about 100% w/w PEG 1000 as excipient. Optionally, butylated hydroxytoluene is also present at 0.02% excipient w/w (as antioxidant)

[00032] In some embodiments, the fill composition is essentially free of, or does not comprise, polyglycolized glyceride, representative examples of which include, but are not limited to GELUCIRE 44/14®, LABRAFIL® AND LABRASOL®. In related embodiments, the fill composition also does not comprise PECEOL®.

[00033] In some embodiments, the capsule fill composition does not comprise polyvinyl pyrrolidone.

[00034] Polyethylene glycols are addition polymers of ethylene oxide and water usually designated by a number roughly corresponding to molecular weight. PEGs below 700 molecular weight occur as liquids; PEGs between 700-1000 are semi-solid. PEGs over 1000 are waxy solids, flakes or free-flowing powders. In some embodiments, the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight range of about 200 to about 1000, preferably from about 700 to about 1000. In a preferred embodiment, the polyethylene glycol is PEG 1000.

[00035] The fill composition may be prepared in a conventional manner, for example, by a method comprising heating the PEG; adding an effective amount of an unmicronized SPRM and further mixing until all or substantially all of the SPRM is solubilized, e.g. until the solution is visually clear. This method of preparing the composition constitutes another aspect of the present invention.

[00036] The resulting fill composition is then formulated into hard or soft gelatin capsules by well-known manufacturing technology.

[00037] One embodiment is directed to a soft gelatin capsule comprising a non-aqueous liquid or semi-liquid oral pharmaceutical fill composition comprising, consisting essentially of or consisting of an unmicronized SPRM, preferably CDB-

4124, and a PEG, preferably PEG 1000. Soft gelatin capsule shells can be produced according to any of the acceptable methods known in the art for production of such capsules. Soft gelatin shells may comprise from about 20% to about 80% gelatin. The gelatin can be of Type A, Type B, or a mixture thereof. The soft gelatin shells may also comprise a plasticizer. Suitable plasticizers include glycerin, xylitol, sorbitol, polyglycerol, non-crystallizing solutions of sorbitol, glucose, fructose, glucose syrups, or mixtures thereof. Preferably, the plasticizer is glycerin. The soft gelatin shells may also comprise water and other ingredients, such as taste modifiers, coloring agents, preservatives and moisture retaining agents.

[00038] Another embodiment is directed to a hard gelatin capsule comprising a non-aqueous liquid or semi-liquid oral pharmaceutical fill composition comprising, consisting essentially of or consisting of an umicronized SPRM, preferably CDB-4124, and a PEG, preferably PEG 1000. Hard gelatin capsules for liquid filling have usually a volume of from 0.3 to 1.0 ml. The available volume is in general from 85-95 vol-%. In comparison to soft gelatin capsules, the moisture uptake of hard gelatin capsules is usually much lower than of soft gelatin capsules. In the hard capsule encapsulation process the capsule is usually pre-fabricated and supplied empty, whereas in the soft gelatin capsule the encapsulation and filling take place simultaneously. Various methods can be used to seal the hard gelatin capsules according to the invention. Preferred methods are banding using a gelatin band and sealing using a hydroalcoholic solution.

[00039] SPRMs

[00040] The capsule fill composition comprises an amount of an SPRM which has a therapeutic effect when a capsule containing the capsule fill composition is administered orally to a subject, preferably a human female.

[00041] In one embodiment, the capsule fill composition comprises a steroid compound disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 6,861,415 and 6,900,193, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. In a preferred embodiment, the steroid compound is CDB-4124 (21-methoxy-17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4 N, N-dimethylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-diene-3,20-dione) or CDB-4453 (21-methoxy-17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4-N-methylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-diene-3,20-dione).

[00042] In other embodiments, the capsule fill composition comprises an SPRM such as, without limitation, Mifepristone (RU-486; 11 β -[4 N,N-dimethylaminophenyl]-17 β -hydroxy-17-(1-propynyl)-estra-4,9-dien-3-one), Lilopristone (11 β -(4 N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-17 β -hydroxy-17-((Z)-3-hydroxypropenyl)estra-4,9-dien-3-one), Onapristone (11 β -(4 N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-17 α -hydroxy-17-(3-hydroxypropyl)-13 α -estra-4,9-dien-3-one), asoprisnil (benzaldehyde, 4-[(11 β ,17 β)-17-methoxy-17-(methoxymethyl)-3-oxoestra-4,9-dien-11-yl]-1-(E)-oxim; J867/asoprisnil), its metabolite J912 (4-[17 β -Hydroxy-17 α -(methoxymethyl)-3-oxoestra-4,9-dien-11 β -yl]benzaldehyde (1E)-oxim), CDB-2914 (17 α -acetoxy-11 β -(4-N,N-dimethylaminophenyl)-19-norpregna-4,9-dien-3,20-dione) or vilaprisan ((8S,11R,13S,14S,17R)-17-hydroxy-13-methyl-11-(4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl)-17-(perfluoroethyl)-1,2,6,7,8,11,12,13,14,15,16,17-dodecahydro-3H-cyclopenta[a]phenanthren-3-one).

[00043] In related aspects, capsule fill compositions comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of an SPRM. Depending on the process conditions the salt compound obtained may be either in neutral or salt form. Salt forms include hydrates and other solvates and also crystalline polymorphs. Both the free base and the salts of these end products may be used in accordance with the invention. Acid addition salts may in a manner known per se be transformed into the free base using basic agents such as alkali or by ion exchange. The free base obtained may also form salts with organic or inorganic acids.

[00044] In the preparation of acid addition salts, preferably such acids are used which form suitably pharmaceutically acceptable salts. Examples of such acids are hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, nitric acid, aliphatic acid, alicyclic carboxylic or sulfonic acids, such as formic acid, acetic acid, propionic acid, succinic acid, glycolic acid, lactic acid, malic acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, ascorbic acid, glucuronic acid, fumaric acid, maleic acid, hydroxymaleic acid, pyruvic acid, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, p-hydroxybenzoic acid, embonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, phenylacetic acid, mandelic acid, alogenbensenesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, galactaric acid, galacturonic acid or naphthalenesulfonic acid. All crystalline form polymorphs

may be used in accordance with the invention. A preferred salt of an SPRM is telapristone acetate.

[00045] Base addition salts may also be used in accordance with the invention and may be prepared by contacting the free acid form with a sufficient amount of the desired base to produce the salt in the conventional manner. The free acid form may be regenerated by contacting the salt form with an acid and isolating the free acid in the conventional manner. Pharmaceutically acceptable base addition salts are formed with metals or amines, such as alkali and alkali earth metals or organic amines. Examples of metals used as cations are sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium and the like. Examples of suitable amines are amino acids such as lysine, choline, diethanolamine, ethylenediamine, N-methylglucamine and the like.

[00046] Disorders that may be treated by orally administering capsules containing a non-aqueous fill composition as described herein

[00047] Capsules containing a non-aqueous capsule fill composition comprising an unmiconized SPRM in liquid or semi-solid solution with a PEG may be administered orally to a subject to treat a variety of disorders or achieve a variety of desired therapeutic results in a subject. Preferably the subject is a female mammal, most preferably a human female.

[00048] In some embodiments of the invention, the capsule is orally administered to a female patient in need thereof in order to treat a disorder selected from the group consisting of endometrial hyperproliferation, endometriosis (or pain associated therewith), dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, adenomyosis, endometrioma, ovarian cancer, cervical cancer. In a preferred embodiment, endometriosis, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, adenomyosis, ovarian cancer or cervical cancer is treated by orally administering the capsule to a patient in need of such treating.

[00049] In another embodiment of the invention, the capsule is orally administered to a female in need thereof in order to induce menses in the female.

[00050] In yet another embodiment of the invention, the capsule is orally administered to a female in need thereof in order to induce labor.

[00051] Dosages and administration regimens

[00052] A therapeutically effective amount of an SPRM required for use in therapy varies with the length of time that activity is desired, and the age and the

condition of the patient to be treated, among other factors, and is ultimately determined by the attendant physician. In general, however, doses employed for human treatment typically are in the range of about 0.001 mg/kg to about 500 mg/kg per day, for example about 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ to about 1 mg/kg per day or about 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ to about 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ per day. For most large mammals, the total daily dosage is from about 1 to 100 mg, preferably from about 2 to 80 mg. The dosage regimen may be adjusted to provide the optimal therapeutic response. The desired dose may be conveniently administered in a single dose, or as multiple doses administered at appropriate intervals, for example as two, three, four or more subdoses per day. In some embodiments, a liquid or semi-solid non-aqueous oral pharmaceutical fill composition for capsule dosage form as described herein comprises CDB-4124 present in an amount of about 5 mg, about 5.5 mg, about 6 mg, about 6.5 mg, about 7 mg, about 7.5 mg, about 8 mg, about 8.5 mg, about 9 mg, about 9.5 mg, about 10 mg, about 10.5 mg, about 11 mg, about 11.5 mg, about 12 mg, about 12.5 mg, about 13 mg, about 13.5 mg, about 14 mg, about 14.5 mg, about 15 mg, about 15.5 mg, about 16 mg, about 16.5 mg, about 17 mg, about 17.5 mg, about 18 mg, about 18.5 mg, about 19 mg, about 19.5 mg, about 20 mg, about 20.5 mg, about 21 mg, about 21.5 mg, about 22 mg, about 22.5 mg, about 23 mg, about 23.5 mg, about 24 mg, about 24.5 mg, or about 25 mg per capsule. In a particularly preferred embodiment, a hard gelatin capsule containing a capsule fill composition consisting of about 12 mg of CDB-4124, PEG 1000 and optionally a preservative such as BHT is administered once per day to a human female in need thereof.

[00053] Illustratively, a capsule of the invention may be orally administered to a subject to provide the subject with an SPRM in an amount of about 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ to about 1 mg/kg body weight, for example about 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 75 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 125 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 150 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 175 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 225 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 275 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 325 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 350 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 375 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 425 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 450 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 475 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 525 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 550 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 575 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 600 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 625 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 650 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 675 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 700 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 725 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 750 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 775 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 800 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$, about 825 $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$,

about 850 µg/kg, about 875 µg/kg, about 900 µg/kg, about 925 µg/kg, about 950 µg/kg, about 975 µg/kg or about 1 mg/kg body weight

[00054] Gelatin capsules comprising a fill composition comprising, consisting essentially of or consisting of an SPRM and PEG 1000, are suitable for prolonged/chronic oral administration because the composition exhibits a relatively low C_{max} and therefore is expected to avoid liver toxicity. In one embodiment, the a capsule of the invention is administered for an administration period of least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 or more days. The capsules may also be administered for an administration period of least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or more months. The capsules may also be administered for an administration period of at least 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 or more years. During the administration period, the capsules may be administered daily or periodically such as every other day, every other month, and the like but are preferably administered once per day. The capsules may also be administered intermittently. For example, the capsules may be administered for an administration period of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or more months, followed by a period of discontinuance, followed by an administration period of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or more months, and so on.

[00055] In one embodiment, the capsule is administered intermittently such that the subject undergoes menses during at least one discontinuance period. This approach is expected to avoid the adverse effects associated with a thickened or stagnant endometrium that may accompany extended treatment with progesterone antagonists, such as spotting, breakthrough bleeding, endometrial hyperproliferation or endometrial cancer. At least one, and preferably every discontinuance period is of sufficient length for the subject to experience menstruation. More preferably, the subject experiences menstruation during every discontinuance period. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the capsule is administered daily for an administration period of about 18 weeks, followed by a discontinuance period (off drug interval) during which the subject experiences menstruation, followed by another administration period of about 16 or 18 weeks and so on. The inventors have determined that orally administering a gelatin capsule containing a non-aqueous capsule fill composition consisting of 12 mg of unmiconized CDB-4124, PEG 1000 and BHT once per day to human females

with uterine fibroids resulted in 100% induction of amenorrhea after two 18 week cycles and reduced uterine fibroids by an average of 64.9%.

[00056] Patients undergoing treatments with the compositions of the instant invention should be monitored routinely for their serum estrogen and glucocorticoid levels.

[00057] The following non-limiting examples are provided to aid in understanding the teachings of the instant invention.

Example 1. Double-Blind Crossover Study in Healthy Volunteers to Compare Two Formulations of Proellex for Oral Administration

[00058] Methods

[00059] A Phase I study was initiated to compare the pharmacokinetics after a single oral administration of either of two oral formulations containing 12 mg of Proellex (telapristone acetate/CDB-4124) in healthy female volunteers.

Formulation A was a dry-filled gelatin capsule containing 10.5% of micronized CDB-4124, 87.6% microcrystalline cellulose, and 1.9% magnesium stearate.

Formulation B was a liquid-filled gelatin capsule containing 4.0% unmiconized CDB-4124, 95.98% polyethylene glycol (PEG) 1000, and 0.02% butylated hydroxytoluene.

[00060] In the first treatment period, twelve healthy human females were randomly assigned to receive either a single dose of Formulation A or single dose of Formulation B. After a 7-day washout period, the subjects received the alternate treatment in the second period. The two formulations were provided as capsules containing 12 mg Proellex. The study drugs were administered orally with 240 mL of water.

[00061] Blood Sample Collection and Processing

[00062] Blood samples for pharmacokinetic profiles were collected on the days that the single doses of Formulations A and B were administered, Days 0 and 8. For each profile, blood samples (4 mL) were collected pre-dose and at 0.5, 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 16, 24, 48, and 72 hours post-dose. Lithium heparin was used as an anticoagulant. After collection, blood samples were mixed by inversion and centrifuged for 10 minutes at 400 x g and 4 C. Plasma was collected and

centrifuged for 25 minutes at 900 x g and 4 C to remove platelets. The platelet-free plasma supernatant was used for analysis.

[00063] Analysis of Telapristone and CDB-4453 Concentrations

[00064] The concentrations of telapristone (CDB-4124) and CDB-4453 (primary metabolite of telapristone) in plasma were determined using a validated LC-MS/MS method. The calibration ranges for both telapristone and CDB-4453 were 1.00 to 100 ng/mL, and the lower limit of quantitation was 1.00 ng/mL for both analytes.

[00065] Results and Discussion

[00066] Plasma Concentrations of Telapristone and CDB-4453

[00067] The mean concentrations and standard deviations for telapristone and CDB-4453 are shown in Tables 1 and 2, respectively, below. Figures 1-4 show linear and semi-log plots of the mean concentrations of telapristone and CDB-4453. The mean concentrations of telapristone and CDB-4453 were very similar for the two formulations.

Table 1. Mean Plasma Concentrations and Standard Deviations for Telapristone

Time (hr)	Plasma Concentration (ng/mL)			
	Formulation A		Formulation B	
	Mean \pm SD	%CV	Mean \pm SD	%CV
0	0.488 \pm 1.692	346	0	
0.5	235 \pm 258	110	189 \pm 151	79.9
1	234 \pm 146	62.2	198 \pm 103	52.1
2	103 \pm 60	58.7	111 \pm 70	63.4
3	69.0 \pm 40.0	58.0	58.9 \pm 32.2	54.6
4	58.6 \pm 36.4	62.2	48.2 \pm 27.4	56.8
8	38.8 \pm 28.9	74.5	30.5 \pm 19.1	62.8
12	30.2 \pm 23.1	76.6	23.2 \pm 16.6	71.7
16	26.1 \pm 22.6	86.3	19.9 \pm 14.2	71.1
24	21.8 \pm 21.9	100	17.0 \pm 14.5	85.2
48	11.0 \pm 14.7	134	7.80 \pm 8.93	114
72	7.44 \pm 13.08	176	4.91 \pm 7.70	157

n = 12 in all cases. Standard deviation values were not calculated when all values were 0 ng/mL.

Table 2. Mean Plasma Concentrations and Standard Deviations for CDB-4453

Time (hr)	Plasma Concentration (ng/mL)			
	Formulation A		Formulation B	
	Mean ± SD	%CV	Mean ± SD	%CV
0	0.132 ± 0.456	346	0	
0.5	57.4 ± 66.8	117	35.3 ± 42.5	120
1	101 ± 43	42.6	95.9 ± 61.7	64.4
2	63.9 ± 23.9	37.3	63.7 ± 27.8	43.6
3	46.3 ± 15.5	33.5	45.8 ± 30.5	66.6
4	39.5 ± 13.5	34.1	37.0 ± 18.9	51.0
8	25.8 ± 9.3	36.1	23.3 ± 11.3	48.5
12	20.5 ± 8.5	41.3	17.5 ± 8.4	48.0
16	17.5 ± 8.3	47.4	14.5 ± 7.2	49.6
24	14.0 ± 7.6	53.9	11.9 ± 7.1	59.3
48	6.27 ± 4.14	66.0	4.94 ± 3.35	67.8
72	3.39 ± 3.15	92.9	2.53 ± 2.00	78.9

n = 12 in all cases. Standard deviation values were not calculated when all values were 0 ng/mL.

[00068] Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Telapristone and CDB-4453

[00069] The descriptive statistics for the parameters for telapristone and CDB-4453 are in Tables 3 and 4, respectively, below. Figures 5 and 6 show the mean concentrations and standard deviations for C_{max} and AUC_{0-t}, respectively, for telapristone and CDB-4453. The results of the bioequivalence comparisons are in Table 5.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Telapristone

Parameter	Formulation	Mean \pm SD	%CV	Geometric		Range	n
				Mean	Median		
C_{max} (ng/mL)	A	338 \pm 228	67.4	272	264	73.0 - 805	12
	B	256 \pm 113	44.2	222	249	35.4 - 455	12
T_{max} (hr)	A	0.873 \pm 0.426	48.8	-	0.975	0.417 - 1.92	12
	B	0.916 \pm 0.570	62.2	-	0.740	0.417 - 2.02	12
AUC_{0-24} (ng•hr/mL)	A	1,133 \pm 734	64.8	946	857	328 - 2,791	12
	B	935 \pm 492	52.6	817	857	310 - 1,841	12
AUC_{0-1} (ng•hr/mL)	A	1,738 \pm 1,462	84.1	1,291	1,204	324 - 4,977	12
	B	1,377 \pm 925	67.2	1,127	1,107	464 - 2,985	12
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng•hr/mL)	A	1,251 \pm 757	60.5	1,063	1,172	329 - 2,984	10
	B	1,341 \pm 952	71.0	1,102	997	473 - 3,200	11
λ_z (hr ⁻¹)	A	0.0597 \pm 0.0581	97.3	0.0436	0.0428	0.00948 - 0.224	12
	B	0.0521 \pm 0.0385	74.0	0.0415	0.0407	0.00910 - 0.145	12
$t_{1/2}$ (hr)	A	21.4 \pm 19.0	89.0	15.9	16.2	3.09 - 73.1	12
	B	21.4 \pm 18.6	87.1	16.7	17.2	4.79 - 76.2	12

Table 4. Descriptive Statistics for Pharmacokinetic Parameters for CDB-4453

Parameter	Formulation	Mean \pm SD	%CV	Geometric		Range	n
				Mean	Median		
C_{max} (ng/mL)	A	117 \pm 45	38.2	109	122	48.5 - 200	12
	B	111 \pm 55	49.2	91.6	121	11.2 - 205	12
T_{max} (hr)	A	1.05 \pm 0.52	49.6	-	0.975	0.467 - 2.17	12
	B	1.26 \pm 0.70	55.7	-	1.06	0.433 - 2.92	12
AUC_{0-24} (ng•hr/mL)	A	659 \pm 182	27.7	637	628	418 - 994	12
	B	588 \pm 243	41.3	539	563	184 - 1,075	12
AUC_{0-4} (ng•hr/mL)	A	1,013 \pm 332	32.8	956	1,022	499 - 1,428	12
	B	869 \pm 357	41.0	806	804	393 - 1,533	12
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng•hr/mL)	A	1,117 \pm 410	36.7	1,038	1,056	524 - 1,650	11
	B	957 \pm 380	39.7	890	925	411 - 1,637	11
λ_z (hr ⁻¹)	A	0.0561 \pm 0.0552	98.3	0.0407	0.0396	0.00922 - 0.211	12
	B	0.0507 \pm 0.0425	84.0	0.0396	0.0348	0.0108 - 0.162	12
$t_{1/2}$ (hr)	A	22.5 \pm 18.9	83.9	17.0	17.7	3.29 - 75.2	12
	B	21.7 \pm 15.3	70.8	17.5	20.3	4.28 - 63.9	12

Table 5. Comparison of Least Squares Mean Values for Formulation B versus Formulation A

Analyte	Parameter	Least Squares Mean (LSM)		Back Transformed LSM		Ratio LSM Formulations B/A (%)	90% Confidence Interval		p-value
		Test: Formulation B	Reference: Formulation A	Test: Formulation B	Reference: Formulation A		Lower (%)	Upper (%)	
Telapristone	Ln(C _{max})	5.40	5.61	222	272	81.6	54.7	122	0.378
	Ln(AUC ₀₋₂₄)	6.71	6.85	817	946	86.4	70.9	105	0.210
	Ln(AUC _{0-t})	7.03	7.16	1,127	1,291	87.4	73.9	103	0.175
	Ln(AUC _{0-∞}) ^a	6.93	7.00	1,019	1,096	93.0	77.0	112	0.497
	Ln(λ _z)	-3.18	-3.13	0.0415	0.0436	95.3	83.1	109	0.542
	T _{max}	0.916	0.873	-	-	105	55.8	154	0.858
	t _{1/2}	21.4	21.4	-	-	100	84.7	115	0.991
CDB-4453	Ln(C _{max})	4.52	4.69	91.6	109	84.2	55.7	127	0.470
	Ln(AUC ₀₋₂₄)	6.29	6.46	539	637	84.6	66.8	107	0.229
	Ln(AUC _{0-t})	6.69	6.86	806	956	84.4	70.6	101	0.116
	Ln(AUC _{0-∞}) ^b	6.79	6.95	888	1,040	85.3	70.2	104	0.170
	Ln(λ _z)	-3.23	-3.20	0.0396	0.0407	97.1	86.6	109	0.652
	T _{max}	1.26	1.05	-	-	120	71.7	169	0.466
	t _{1/2}	21.7	22.5	-	-	96.2	82.7	110	0.620

^a Subjects 101-01-008 and 101-01-014 were not included in the analysis for AUC_{0-∞} due to lack of reliable values for one or both formulations.

^b Subject 101-01-008 was not included in the analysis for AUC_{0-∞} due to lack of reliable values for both formulations.

[00070] For telapristone, the mean, geometric mean, and median values for C_{max}, AUC₀₋₂₄, and AUC_{0-t} were similar for Formulations A and B, with the values being very slightly lower, but less variable for Formulation B, as shown by the standard deviations and ranges (Table 3, Figures 5 and 6). Reliable values for AUC_{0-∞} could not be calculated for two subjects for Formulation A and for one subject for Formulation B (Appendix B). The resulting mean AUC_{0-∞} was slightly higher for Formulation B than for Formulation A. The LSM ratio for C_{max} was 81.6% with a 90% CI of 54.7% to 122% (Table 5). The LSM ratio for AUC_{0-t} was 87.4% with a 90% CI of 73.9% to 103%. These results indicate that the exposure to telapristone from Formulation B was within 20% of the exposure from Formulation A; however, the 90% CI values were not within 80% to 125%. The LSM results for AUC₀₋₂₄ were similar to those for AUC_{0-t}; however, since AUC₀₋₂₄

is a partial area, it not as good a measure of exposure as AUC_{0-t} . The LSM results for $AUC_{0-\infty}$ indicated slightly more equal exposure, 93.0% with 90% CI values 77.0% to 112%. However, since there missing values for $AUC_{0-\infty}$, it is not as representative of the study population as AUC_{0-t} . In spite of a moderately large intersubject variability for λ_z and $t_{1/2}$ with %CV values of 74% or greater, the mean values were nearly identical (Table 3), and the LSM ratios were close to 100% with 90% CI values between 80% and 125% indicating that the elimination rates were the same for both formulations (Table 5). The median T_{max} values were slightly less than 1 hour for both formulations, indicating rapid absorption (Table 3). The LSM ratio for T_{max} was 105% with a 90% CI range of 55.8% to 154% (Table 5). There were no statistically significant differences ($p > 0.05$) for any of the parameters for telapristone, and the 90% CI intervals included 100% in all cases (Table 5).

[00071] For the metabolite CDB-4453, the mean, geometric mean, and median values for C_{max} were nearly identical for Formulations A and B (Table 4). The mean, geometric mean, and median values for AUC_{0-24} and AUC_{0-t} were similar for Formulations A and B, with the values being slightly lower with similar variability (Table 4, Figures 5 and 6). Reliable values for $AUC_{0-\infty}$ could not be calculated for either Formulation A or B for one subject. The resulting mean, geometric mean, and median $AUC_{0-\infty}$ values for the other 11 subjects were very similar to the corresponding values for AUC_{0-t} with $AUC_{0-\infty}$ being very slightly lower for Formulation B than for Formulation A. The LSM ratio for C_{max} was 84.2% with a 90% CI of 55.7% to 127% (Table 5). The LSM ratio for AUC_{0-t} was 84.4% with a 90% CI of 70.6% to 101%. These results indicate that the exposure to telapristone from Formulation B was within 20% of the exposure from Formulation A; however, the 90% CI values were not within 80% to 125%. The LSM results for AUC_{0-24} and $AUC_{0-\infty}$ were similar to those for AUC_{0-t} ; however, these parameters not as good as measures of exposure as AUC_{0-t} since AUC_{0-24} is a partial area and there were some missing values for $AUC_{0-\infty}$. In spite of a moderately large intersubject variability for λ_z and $t_{1/2}$ with %CV values of 71% or greater, the mean values were very similar (Table 4), and the LSM ratios were close to 100% with 90% CI values between 80% and 125% indicating that the elimination rates were the same for both formulations (Table 5). The median T_{max} values were close to 1 hour for both formulations, indicating rapid absorption and

metabolism of telapristone to CDB-4453 (Table 4). The LSM ratio for T_{max} was 120% with a 90% CI range of 71.7% to 169% (Table 5). There were no statistically significant differences ($p > 0.05$) for any of the parameters for CDB-4453, and the 90% CI intervals included 100% in all cases (Table 5).

[00072] Conclusions

[00073] The exposure to telapristone and CDB-4453 was similar after administration of single doses of Formulation A and Formulation B. For the primary measures of exposure, C_{max} and AUC_{0-t} , the ratios of the LSM values for Formulation B/Formulation A were between 80% and 90%. Although the 90% CI ranges for C_{max} and AUC_{0-t} were not included within 80% to 125%, there were no statistically significant differences between the formulations and the 90% CI ranges included 100% in all cases. The results for AUC_{0-24} and $AUC_{0-\infty}$ were similar to the results for AUC_{0-t} . Median T_{max} occurred at slightly less than 1 hour for telapristone and very close to 1 hour for CDB-4453 for both formulations, indicating rapid absorption of telapristone and rapid metabolism to CDB-4453. In spite of a moderately large intersubject variability for λ_z and $t_{1/2}$, the mean values for both telapristone and CDB-4453 were very similar, and the LSM ratios were close to 100% with 90% CI values between 80% and 125% indicating that the elimination rates were the same for both formulations.

[00074] A Synopsis of the pharmacokinetic parameters and bioequivalence LSM ratios is provided below at Tables 6 and 7 respectively.

Table 6

Parameter	Telapristone (mean \pm SD)		CDB-4453 (mean \pm SD)	
	Formulation A	Formulation B	Formulation A	Formulation B
C_{\max} (ng/mL)	338 \pm 228	256 \pm 113	117 \pm 45	111 \pm 55
T_{\max} (hr) ^a	0.975 (0.417-1.92) ^a	0.740 (0.417-2.02) ^a	0.975 (0.467-2.17) ^a	1.06 (0.433-2.92) ^a
AUC_{0-24} (ng•hr/mL)	1,133 \pm 734	935 \pm 492	659 \pm 182	588 \pm 243
AUC_{0-4} (ng•hr/mL)	1,738 \pm 1,462	1,377 \pm 925	1,013 \pm 332	869 \pm 357
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng•hr/mL)	1,251 \pm 757	1,341 \pm 952	1,117 \pm 410	957 \pm 380
λ_z (hr ⁻¹)	0.0597 \pm 0.0581	0.0521 \pm 0.0385	0.0561 \pm 0.0552	0.0507 \pm 0.0425
$t_{1/2}$ (hr)	21.4 \pm 19.0	21.4 \pm 18.6	22.5 \pm 18.9	21.7 \pm 15.5

^a Values for T_{\max} presented as median with range.

Table 7

Analyte	Parameter	Ratio	90% CI	p-value
Telapristone	$\text{Ln}(C_{\text{max}})$	81.6%	54.7% - 122%	0.378
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-24})$	86.4%	70.9% - 105%	0.210
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-t})$	87.4%	73.9% - 103%	0.175
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-\infty})$	93.0%	77.0% - 112%	0.497
	$\text{Ln}(\lambda_z)$	95.3%	83.1% - 109%	0.542
	T_{max}	105%	55.8% - 154%	0.858
	$t_{1/2}$	100%	84.7% - 115%	0.991
CDB-4453	$\text{Ln}(C_{\text{max}})$	84.2%	55.7% - 127%	0.470
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-24})$	84.6%	66.8% - 107%	0.229
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-t})$	84.4%	70.6% - 101%	0.116
	$\text{Ln}(AUC_{0-\infty})$	85.3%	70.2% - 104%	0.170
	$\text{Ln}(\lambda_z)$	97.1%	86.6% - 109%	0.652
	T_{max}	120%	71.7% - 169%	0.466
	$t_{1/2}$	96.2%	82.7% - 110%	0.620

Example 2: Clinical Effects of Orally Administered Formulation B

[00075] A Phase 2 study was initiated to test the effects of Formulation B orally administered to women with confirmed uterine fibroids by MRI at baseline who were experiencing more than 80 mL of blood loss during menses as confirmed by alkaline hematin assessment. Gelatin capsules, containing a fill composition consisting of 12 mg of unmicronized CDB-4124 and PEG 1000 (and BHT as a preservative; Formulation B of Example 1) were administered once per day to women with uterine fibroids for 18 weeks of blinded treatment and were

then withdrawn from the medication to allow for menses. After menses occurred, a second 18 week course of treatment followed.

[00076] Substantial and statistically significant reductions in excessive menstrual bleeding, the key symptom of uterine fibroids and the primary endpoint of the studies, was observed. Amenorrhea, cessation of menses, is known to occur when a sufficiently high plasma concentration of Proellex[®] is achieved. The incidence of amenorrhea in active treatment groups consistently showed a statistically significant difference from the rate in placebo-treated subjects. At the end of the second course of treatment (36 weeks total active treatment), 100% of subjects achieved amenorrhea (compared to only 50% of vaginally treated subjects). The oral dosage form provided for consistent suppression of menses.

[00077] Along with changes in menstrual patterns, fibroid size, measured by MRI, was reduced in volume. A median 64.9% reduction in fibroid size compared to baseline was achieved after two 18 week cycles and was statistically different from the change from baseline volume in the placebo subjects (0%, $p = 0.0004$).

[00078] A statistically significant improvement in Uterine Fibroid Symptom Severity Score (UFSQOL) was also achieved compared to placebo. The Uterine Fibroid Symptom Quality of Life Survey (UFSQOL) was utilized in this study. The UFSQOL assesses distress from both bleeding and the bulk symptoms of uterine fibroids. Bulk symptoms include distress associated with pelvic pressure, frequent urination and fatigue. Proellex[®]-treated subjects experienced a LOCF median 70.9% improvement while placebo-treated subjects reported a 37.5% improvement ($p = 0.0211$).

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid or semi-solid non-aqueous oral pharmaceutical fill composition for capsule dosage form, said composition consisting of (a) a pharmaceutically effective amount of an unmiconized selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) per capsule dosage unit (b) polyethylene glycol (PEG) and optionally (c) a preservative, preferably butylated hydroxytoluene (BHT).
2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein said capsule dosage form is a hard gelatin capsule.
3. The composition according to claim 1, wherein said capsule dosage form is a soft gelatin capsule.
4. The composition according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the SPRM is CDB-4124 and wherein CDB-4124 is preferably present in amount of about 12 mg per capsule.
5. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the PEG is PEG 1000.
6. A gelatin capsule suitable for oral administration containing a non-aqueous capsule fill composition consisting essentially of about 12 mg of unmiconized CDB-4124 in liquid or semi-solid solution with PEG 1000, wherein the fill composition optionally comprises BHT.
7. The gelatin capsule according to claim 6, wherein the gelatin capsule is a hard gelatin capsule.
8. The gelatin capsule according to claim 6, wherein the gelatin capsule is a soft gelatin capsule.
9. A method of treating a progesterone-dependent disorder comprising orally administering to a subject in need thereof a liquid oral pharmaceutical composition in capsule dosage form, said composition consisting of (a) a pharmaceutically effective amount of an unmiconized selective progesterone receptor modulator (SPRM) per capsule dosage unit (b) polyethylene glycol (PEG) and optionally (c) a preservative, preferably BHT.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the progesterone-dependent disorder is selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer.

11. The method of claim 9 or 10, wherein the composition is administered once per day.

12. The method of any one of claims 9-11, wherein the progesterone-dependent disorder to be treated is uterine fibroids and wherein the composition is administered once per day for about 18 weeks, after which administration of the composition is discontinued for an off drug interval of sufficient duration to allow menses, and thereafter the composition is administered once per day for about 18 weeks, optionally followed by one or more additional 18 week treatment cycles.

13. A method of making a solid oral dosage form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of an SPRM and a PEG, the method comprising adding a molten solution of SPRM and said PEG to hard gelatin capsules and allowing said molten solution to cool therein, with the proviso that the SPRM is not micronized.

Figure 1

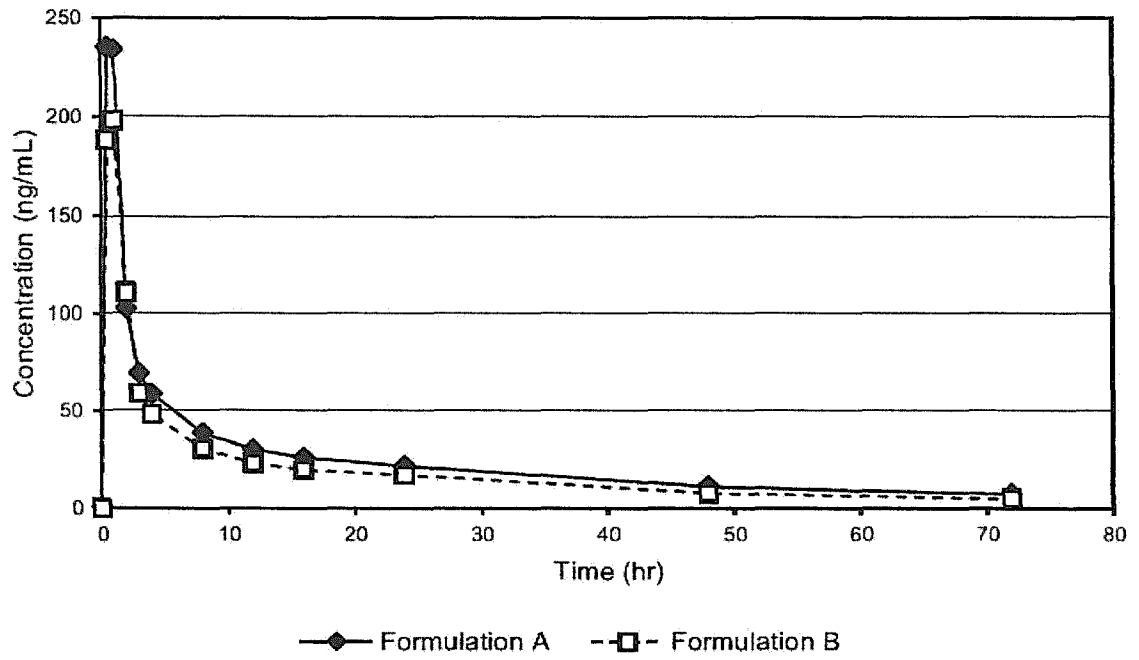


Figure 2

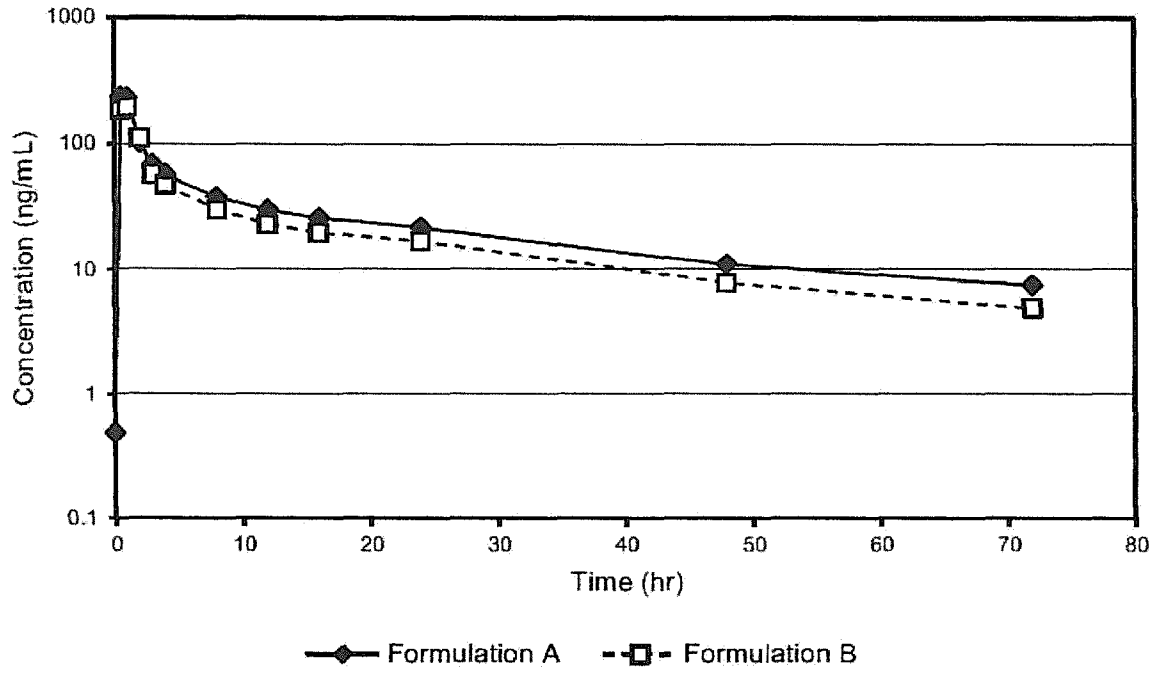


Figure 3

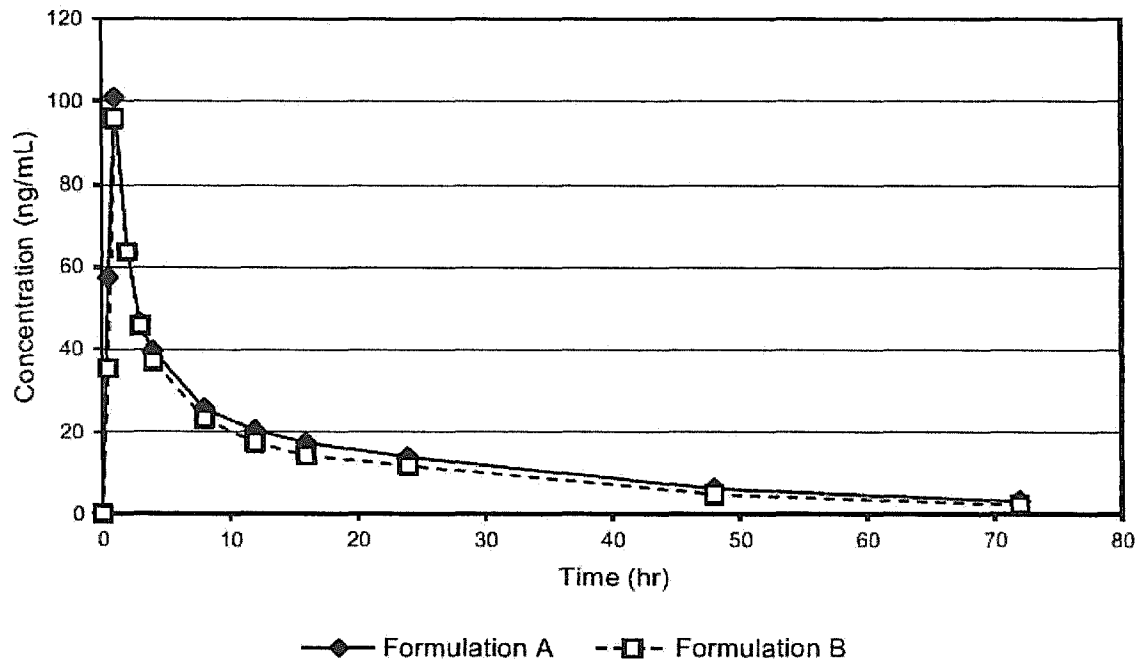


Figure 4

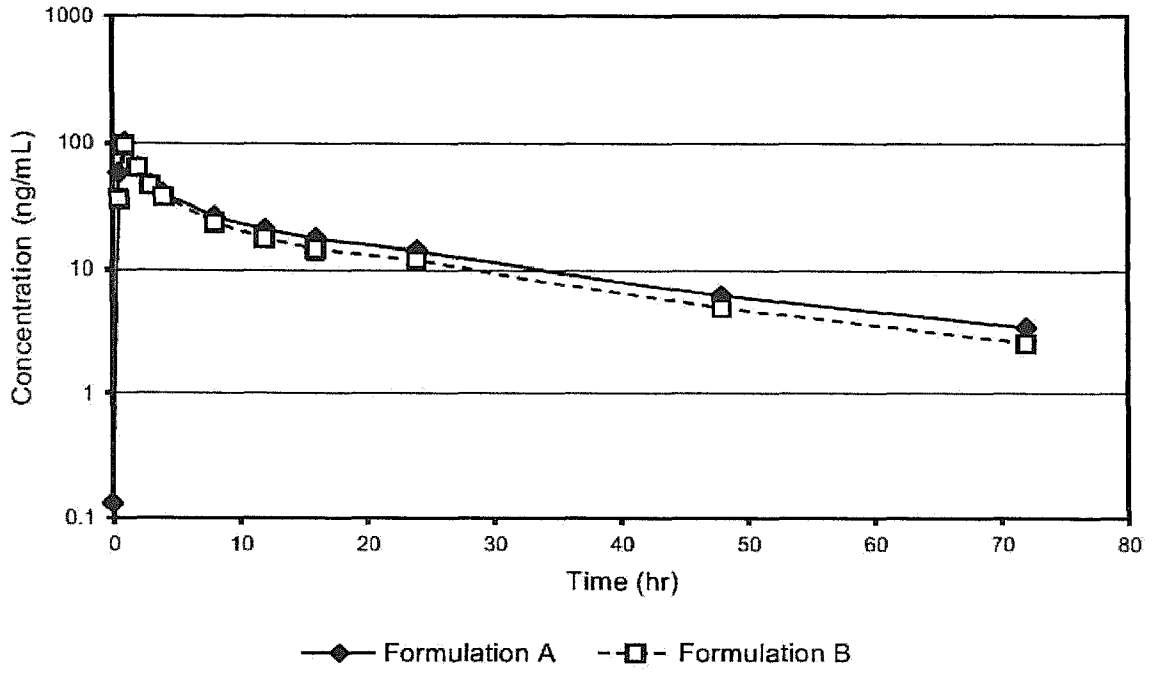


Figure 5

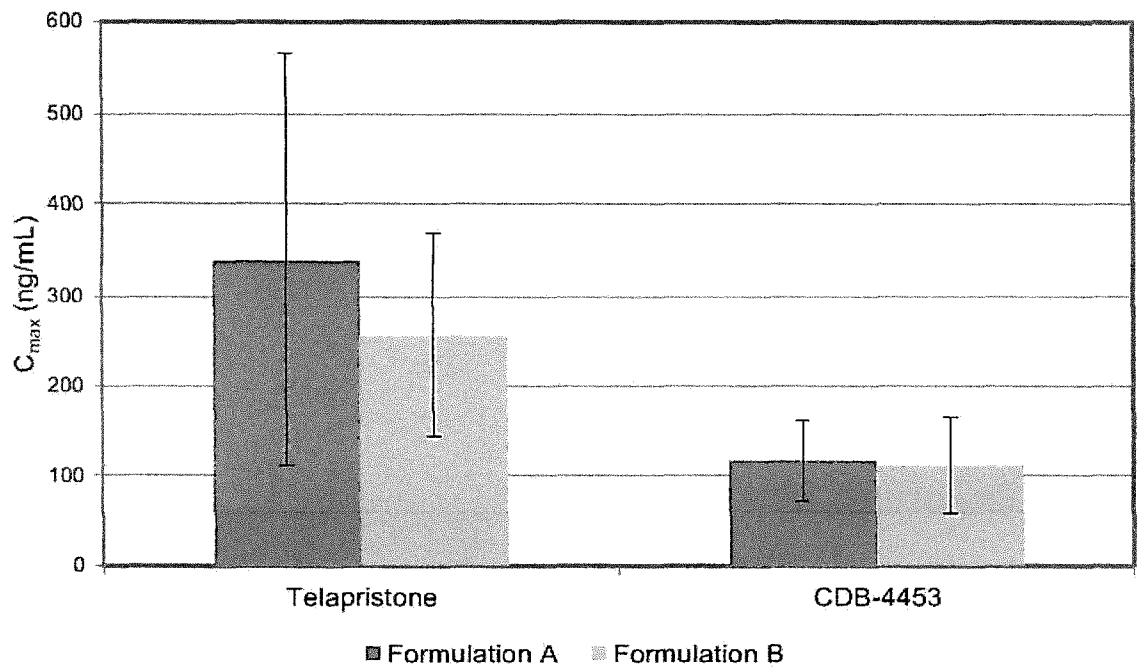
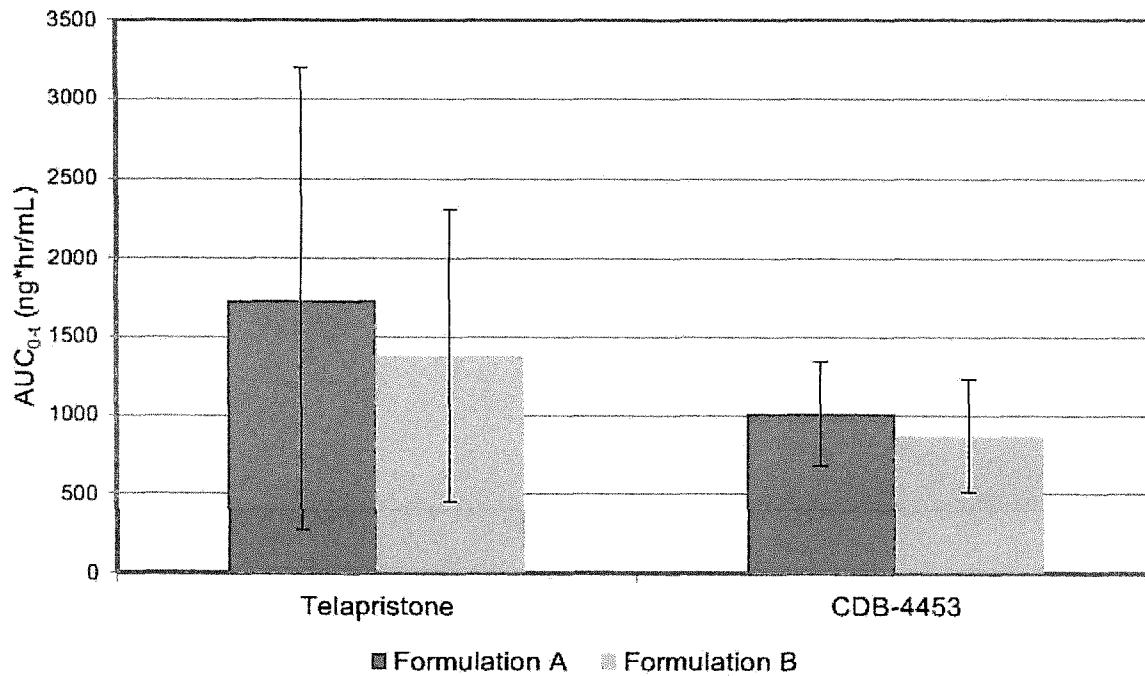


Figure 6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2017/065108

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC(8) - A61K 31/573; A61K 31/56; A61P 15/00; A61P 35/00 (2018.01)
 CPC - A61K 31/573; A61K 9/4858; A61K 9/4866 (2018.01)

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)

See Search History document

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)

See Search History document

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X --- Y	WO 2008/083192 A2 (REPROS THERAPEUTICS INC) 10 July 2008 (10.07.2008) entire document	1-4, 6-10 ----- 11, 13
Y	US 6,900,193 B1 (KIM et al) 31 May 2005 (31.05.2005) entire document	11
Y	US 4,450,877 A (WALKER et al) 29 May 1984 (29.05.1984) entire document	13
A	US 2011/0053900 A1 (PODOLSKI et al) 03 March 2011 (03.03.2011) entire document	1-4, 6-11, 13

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 January 2018

Date of mailing of the international search report

08 MAR 2018

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2017/065108

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: 5, 12
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

- Remark on Protest**
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
 - The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
 - No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.