CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for treating ptosis in a subject, comprising

administering an effective amount of oxymetazoline to the exterior surface of an eye of a subject in need of such treatment.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the administering results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxymetazoline.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the administering is administering as a single drop.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the administering is administering at least once daily.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject does not have an allergic ocular condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

8. A method for treating ptosis in a subject, comprising

administering an effective amount of a long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and an effective amount of a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist to the exterior surface of an eye of a subject in need of such treatment.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is oxymetazoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the effective amount of the phenylephrine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

16. The method claim 8, wherein the administering results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

17. The method of claim 8, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and

the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

20. The method of claim 8, wherein the administering is administering as a single drop.

21. The method of claim 8, wherein the administering is administering at least once daily.

22. The method of claim 8, wherein the subject does not have an ocular allergic condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

23. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising oxymetazoline, a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, formulated for topical ophthalmic use.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 25, wherein the phenylephrine is present in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 25, wherein the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.15 to 1.5 weight percent.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 27, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of at least 0.25 weight percent.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.25 weight percent.

30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of an astringent, an antioxidant, vitamin A, a lubricant, a blue dye, and any combination thereof.

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. Oxymetazoline for use in treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration to the exterior surface of an eye.

2. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

3. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

4. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxymetazoline.

5. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration is as a single drop.

6. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration is at least once daily.

7. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the subject does not have an allergic ocular condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

8. A long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use in treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration to the exterior surface of an eye.

9. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 8, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is oxymetazoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 9, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

11. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 9, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

12. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 11, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

13. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 12, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

14. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 8, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 14, wherein the phenylephrine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt

thereof is provided in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

16. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 8, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

17. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 8, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine.

18. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 17, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

19. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 18, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

20. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim 8, wherein the administration is as a single drop.

21. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist according to claim 8, wherein the administration is at least once daily.

22. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist according to claim 8, wherein the subject does not have an ocular allergic condition calling

for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

23. Use of oxymetazoline in the manufacture of a medicament for treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration to the exterior surface of an eye.

24. The use of claim 23, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

25. The use of claim 23, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

26. The use of claim 23, wherein the oxymetazoline is provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxymetazoline.

27. The use of claim 23, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration as a single drop.

28. The use of claim 23, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration at least once daily.

29. The use of claim 23, wherein the subject does not have an allergic ocular condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

30. Use of a long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist in the manufacture of a medicament for treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration to the exterior surface of an eye of a subject in need of such treatment.

31. The use of claim 30, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is oxymetazoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. The use of claim 31, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

33. The use of claim 31, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

34. The use of claim 33, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

35. The use of claim 34, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

36. The use of claim 30, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

37. The use of claim 36, wherein the phenylephrine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is provided in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

38. The use of claim 30, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

39. The use of claim 30, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and the

short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine.

40. The use of claim 39, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

41. The use of claim 40, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is provided as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine.

42. The use of claim 30, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration as a single drop.

43. The use of claim 30, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration at least once daily.

44. The use of claim 30, wherein the subject does not have an ocular allergic condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

45. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising oxymetazoline, a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, formulated for topical ophthalmic use.

46. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent.

47. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine.

48. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein the phenylephrine is present in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

49. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.15 to 1.5 weight percent.

50. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 49, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of at least 0.25 weight percent.

51. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 50, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.25 weight percent.

52. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 45, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of an astringent, an antioxidant, vitamin A, a lubricant, a blue dye, and any combination thereof.