Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use in ameliorating or treating damage to the lining of the alimentary tract of a patient, wherein the damage is a result of the patient's exposure to chemotherapy and/or radiation comprising:

    a) an effective amount of the topically active corticosteroid which is beclomethasone dipropionate in an oral dosage form wherein the effective amount is 8mg/day; and

    b) a second compound that is intended to treat another cellular aspect of tissue damage, wherein the second compound is selected from the group consisting of keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), lithium carbonate, and R-spondin-1.

2. A pharmaceutical composition for use in topically treating epithelial cells, comprising an oral dosage form of a topically active corticosteroid which is beclomethasone dipropionate to a patient, wherein the oral dosage form releases the beclomethasone dipropionate in the gut lumen and is effective for topical treatment of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract of the patient and for a patient exhibiting symptoms of inflammation due to tissue damage arising from radiation or chemotherapy treatment,

    wherein the effective amount of the topically active corticosteroid is 8 mg/day, and

    wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage of KGF, lithium carbonate or R-spondin-1 or a combination thereof.

3. Use of a pharmaceutical composition in the manufacture of a medicament for ameliorating of treating damage to the lining of the alimentary tract of a patient, wherein the damage is a result of the patient's exposure to chemotherapy and/or radiation and wherein the composition comprises:

    a) an effective amount of the topically active corticosteroid which is beclomethasone dipropionate in an oral dosage form wherein the effective amount is 8mg/day; and

    b) a second compound that is intended to treat another cellular aspect of tissue damage, wherein the second compound is selected from the group consisting of keratinocyte growth factor (KGF), lithium carbonate, and R-spondin-1.

4. Use of a pharmaceutical composition in the manufacture of a medicament for topically treating a patient's epithelial cells wherein the medicament comprises an oral dosage form of a topically active corticosteroid which is beclomethasone dipropionate, and wherein the medicament is to release the beclomethasone dipropionate in the gut lumen and is effective for topical treatment of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract of the patient and for a patient exhibiting symptoms of inflammation due to tissue damage arising from radiation or chemotherapy treatment,
    wherein the effective amount of the topically active corticosteroid is 8 mg/day, and
    wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage of KGF, lithium carbonate or R-spondin-1 or a combination thereof.

5. The use of claim 4, wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage of KGF.

6. The use of claim 4, wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage of lithium carbonate.

7. The use of claim 4, wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage of R-spondin-1.

8. The use of claim 4, wherein the medicament is to be administered 1-2 times prior to chemotherapy or radiation therapy, in addition to administration following chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

9. A pharmaceutical composition for use in topically treating epithelial tissue, comprising an oral dosage form of topically active corticosteroid beclomethasone dipropionate or a metabolite thereof selected from the group consisting of beclomethasone-17-monopropionate and 21-beclomethasone monopropionate, wherein the oral dosage form is designed to release the beclomethasone dipropionate or metabolite in the gut lumen and is effective for topical treatment of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract of a patient and further wherein the patient exhibits symptoms of inflammation due to tissue damage arising from radiation or chemotherapy treatment, and wherein the topically active corticosteroid is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage amount of KGF, or lithium carbonate or R-spondin-1.

10. Use of a pharmaceutical composition in the manufacture of a medicament for the topical treatment of epithelial tissue, comprising an oral dosage form of topically active corticosteroid beclomethasone dipropionate or a metabolite thereof selected from the group consisting of beclomethasone-17-monopropionate and 21-beclomethasone monopropionate, wherein the oral dosage form is designed to release the beclomethasone dipropionate or metabolite in the gut lumen and is effective for topical treatment of the upper and lower gastrointestinal tract of a patient and further wherein the patient exhibits symptoms of inflammation due to tissue damage arising from radiation or chemotherapy treatment, and wherein the topically active medicament is to be administered in conjunction with an effective dosage amount of KGF, or lithium carbonate or R-spondin-1.