Claims:

Claim 1. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be administered to the oral mucosa of said subject, wherein the agitation is associated with a neurodegenerative disease or a neuropsychiatric disease, and wherein the medicament does not cause significant sedation within 60 minutes after administration.

Claim 2. The use according to Claim 1, wherein the agitation is associated with a neurodegenerative disease.

Claim 3. The use according to Claim 2, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer disease, frontotemporal dementia (FTD), dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), post-traumatic stress disorder, Parkinson's disease, vascular dementia, vascular cognitive impairment, Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, multiple system atrophy, and progressive supranuclear palsy.

Claim 4. The use according to Claim 3, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

Claim 5. The use according to Claim 1, wherein the agitation is associated with a neuropsychiatric disease.

Claim 6. The use according to Claim 5, wherein said neuropsychiatric disease is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, bipolar mania, delirium, and depression.

Claim 7. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medicament is to be administered in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a film, wafer, patch, lozenge, gel, spray, tablet and liquid drops.

Claim 8. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the medicament is to be administered at a dosage in the range of about 3 micrograms to about 100 micrograms.

Claim 9. The use according to Claim 8, wherein said dosage is 5 micrograms to 30 micrograms.

Claim 10. The use according to Claim 7, wherein said dosage form is a film and the film is a thin film.

Claim 11. The sublingual composition according to Claim 7 or Claim 10, wherein said film is mucoadhesive in nature and provides a quick onset of action.

Claim 12. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, which upon administration produces a therapeutic effect to suppress agitation in 30 seconds to 30 minutes.

Claim 13. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be administered to the oral mucosa of said subject, wherein the medicament does not cause significant sedation within 60 minutes after administration, and wherein said agitation is not perioperative agitation.

Claim 14. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the agitation is acute agitation.

Claim 15. The use according to any one of Claims 1-13, wherein the agitation is chronic agitation.

Claim 16. The use according to any one of Claims 1-13, wherein the agitation is severe agitation.

Claim 17. The use according to any one of Claims 1-13, wherein the medicament is to be administered sublingually.