WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reducing an adverse consequence of a myocardial infarction in a patient comprising administering an antagonist of TGF-β to the patient during an acute stage of the myocardial infarction.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the myocardial infarction is an acute myocardial infarction.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced within 120 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced within about 72 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced within about 48 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced within about 24 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced within about 12 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced prior to substantial macrophage and mononuclear infiltration of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced during a period characterized by neutrophilic infiltration of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of the antagonist of TGF-β is commenced during a period characterized by necrosis of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the patient is a human or a non-human mammal.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the method of reducing an adverse consequence of a myocardial infarction in a patient is a method of preserving myocardium..

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the TGF-β antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

i) an antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds to one or more isoforms of TGF-β;

ii) a TGF-β receptor or soluble fragment thereof;

iii) an antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds to one or more TGF-β receptors; and

iv) an antisense or interfering RNA oligonucleotide.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises administering a compound that is capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β to the patient.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the compound capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β is an anti-inflammatory drug.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the compound capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β is an antagonist of TNF-α.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises administering an ACE inhibitor to the patient.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of benazepril, captopril, fosinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, transdolapril, lisinopril, enalapril and ramparil.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises administering an angiotensin II receptor antagonist to the patient.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the angiotensin II receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eprosartan, telmisartan, losartan, irbesartan, olmesartan, candesartan, and valsartan.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises administering a beta-adrenergic antagonist to the patient.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the beta-aderergic antagonist is selected from the group consisting of alprenolol, bucindolol, carteolol, carvedilol, labetalol, nadolol, oxprenolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol, timolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, celiprolol, esmolol, metoprolol, and nebivolol.

23. The method of claim 13, wherein said TGF-β antagonist is an antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds to one or more isoforms of TGF-β.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment neutralizes human TGF-β1, TGF-β2 and TGF-β3.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1073G12 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 2) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1074B9 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 12) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1287A10 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 22) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1073G12 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 7) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

29. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1074B9 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 17) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1287A10 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 27) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1073G12 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 2) and the PET 1073G12 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 7).

32. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1074B9 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 12) and the PET 1074B9 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 17).

33. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1287A10 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 22) and the PET 1287A10 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 27).

34. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a set of CDRs HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3, wherein said HCDR3 has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 25.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 of the VH domain are within a germline heavy chain framework.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 of the VH domain are within a framework that comprises up to 12 mutations from the germline amino acid sequence.

37. The method of claim 24, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a set of CDRs LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3, wherein said LCDR3 has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 30.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 are within a germline heavy chain framework.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 are within a framework that comprises up to 5 mutations from the germline amino acid sequence.

40. The method of claim 24, wherein administering an antagonist of TGF-β to the patient during an acute stage of the myocardial infarction comprises administering a dose of about 1 mg per kilogram of patient body mass.

41. The method of claim 24, wherein administering an antagonist of TGF-β to the patient during an acute stage of the myocardial infarction comprises administering a dose of about 5 mg per kilogram of patient body mass.

I CLAIM:

1. Use of an antagonist of TGF-β in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing an adverse consequence of a myocardial infarction in a patient during an acute stage of the myocardial infarction, wherein the TGF-β antagonist is an antibody or antibody fragment that specifically binds to one or more isoforms of TGF-β.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the patient is a human or a non-human mammal.

3. The use according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein reducing an adverse consequence of a myocardial infarction in a patient preserves myocardium.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment neutralizes human TGF-β1, TGF-β2 and TGF-β3.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1073G12 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 2) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

6. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1074B9 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 12) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

7. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1287A10 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 22) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

8. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1073G12 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 7) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

9. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1074B9 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 17) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

10. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET1287A10 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 27) with up to 5 mutations, or an antigen-binding portion thereof.

11. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1073G12 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 2) and the PET 1073G12 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 7).

12. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1074B9 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 12) and the PET 1074B9 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 17).

13. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises the PET 1287A10 VH domain (SEQ ID NO: 22) and the PET 1287A10 VL domain (SEQ ID NO: 27).

14. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a set of CDRs HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3, wherein said HCDR3 has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 15 and SEQ ID NO: 25.

15. The use according to claim 14, wherein the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 of the VH domain are within a germline heavy chain framework.

16. The use according to claim 15, wherein the HCDR1, HCDR2 and HCDR3 of the VH domain are within a framework that comprises up to 12 mutations from the germline amino acid sequence.

17. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antibody or antibody fragment comprises a set of CDRs LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3, wherein said LCDR3 has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 20 and SEQ ID NO: 30.

18. The use according to claim 17, wherein the LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 are within a germline heavy chain framework.

19. The use according to claim 18, wherein the LCDR1, LCDR2 and LCDR3 are within a framework that comprises up to 5 mutations from the germline amino acid sequence.

20. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antagonist of TGF-β is formulated to deliver a dose of about 1 mg per kilogram of patient body mass.

21. The use according to claim 4, wherein the antagonist of TGF-β is formulated to deliver a dose of about 5 mg per kilogram of patient body mass.

22. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the myocardial infarction is an acute myocardial infarction.

23. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced within 120 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

24. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced within about 72 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

25. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced within about 48 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

26. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced within about 24 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

27. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced within about 12 hours of onset of myocardial ischemia.

28. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced prior to substantial macrophage and mononuclear infiltration of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

29. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced during a period characterized by neutrophilic infiltration of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

30. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is commenced during a period characterized by necrosis of tissue affected by the myocardial infarction.

31. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is suitable for administering with a compound that is capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β to the patient.

32. The use according to claim 31, wherein the compound capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β is an anti-inflammatory drug.

33. The use according to claim 31, wherein the compound capable of selectively restoring a desirable function of TGF-β is an antagonist of TNF-α.

34. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is suitable for administering with an ACE inhibitor to the patient.

35. The use according to claim 34, wherein the ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of benazepril, captopril, fosinopril, moexipril, perindopril, quinapril, transdolapril, lisinopril, enalapril and ramparil.

36. The use according to claim 34, wherein the medicament is suitable for administering with an angiotensin II receptor antagonist to the patient.

37. The use according to claim 36, wherein the angiotensin II receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eprosartan, telmisartan, losartan, irbesartan, olmesartan, candesartan, and valsartan.

38. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is suitable for administering with a beta-adrenergic antagonist to the patient.

39. The use according to claim 1, wherein the beta-aderergic antagonist is selected from the group consisting of alprenolol, bucindolol, carteolol, carvedilol, labetalol, nadolol, oxprenolol, penbutolol, pindolol, propranolol, sotalol, timolol, atenolol, betaxolol, bisoprolol, celiprolol, esmolol, metoprolol, and nebivolol.