Claims

1. A polymeric prodrug for use in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint.

2. A polymeric prodrug for use for intra-articular injection.

3. A polymeric prodrug for use for intra-articular injection in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint.

4. The polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 3,
(i) wherein the polymeric prodrug comprises a polymeric carrier comprising at least one polymer, and
(ii) wherein one or more biologically active moieties are reversibly connected through reversible prodrug linker moieties to said polymeric carrier.

5. The polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polymeric carrier is water-soluble.

6. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 5, wherein the polymeric carrier comprises, preferably consists of, a linear, branched or dendrimeric PEG-based polymer.

7. The polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the polymeric carrier is water-insoluble.

8. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 7, wherein the polymeric carrier comprises, preferably consists of, a PEG-based hydrogel.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 8, and optionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,
a) for use in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint, and/or
b) for use for intra-articular injection.

10. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 9, wherein the disease of the joint is selected from infectious arthropathies (M00-M03), inflammatory polyarthropathies (M05-M14), arthrosis (M15-M19), other

joint disorders (M20-M25), and systemic connective tissue disorders (M30-M36), dorsopathies (M40-M54), soft tissue disorders (M60-M79), osteopathies and chondropathies (M80-M94).

11. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the one or more biologically active moieties are selected from the group consisting of (i) non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), (ii) disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), (iii) corticosteroids, and (iv) biologics.

12. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the one or more biologically active moiety is IL-1ra.

13. A method of preventing and/or treating a disease of the joint, wherein said method comprises the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 12 to a patient in need thereof.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition is administered by intra-articular injection.

Claims

1. A polymeric prodrug for use in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint.

2. A polymeric prodrug for use for intra-articular injection.

3. A polymeric prodrug for use for intra-articular injection in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint.

4. The polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 3,
   (i) wherein the polymeric prodrug comprises a polymeric carrier comprising at least one polymer, and
   (ii) wherein one or more biologically active moieties are reversibly connected through reversible prodrug linker moieties to said polymeric carrier.

5. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 4, wherein the polymeric carrier is water-soluble.

6. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 5, wherein the polymeric carrier comprises, preferably consists of, a linear, branched or dendrimeric PEG-based polymer.

7. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 4, wherein the polymeric carrier is water-insoluble.

8. The polymeric prodrug for use of claim 7, wherein the polymeric carrier comprises, preferably consists of, a PEG-based hydrogel.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymeric prodrug for use of any one of claims 1 to 8, and optionally one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,
   a) for use in the prevention, diagnosis and/or treatment of a disease of the joint, and/or
   b) for use for intra-articular injection.

10. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 and 3 to 9, wherein the disease of the joint is selected from infectious arthropathies (M00-M03), inflammatory polyarthropathies (M05-M14), arthrosis (M15-M19), other joint disorders (M20-M25), and systemic connective tissue disorders (M30-M36), dorsopathies (M40-M54), soft tissue disorders (M60-M79), osteopathies and chondropathies (M80-M94).

11. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the one or more biologically active moieties are selected from the group consisting of (i) non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), (ii) disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs), (iii) corticosteroids, and (iv) biologics.

12. The polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition for use of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the one or more biologically active moiety is IL-1ra.

13. Use of the polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 12 for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing and/or treating a disease of the joint.

14. The use of claim 13, wherein the polymeric prodrug or pharmaceutical composition is administered by intra-articular injection.