CLAIMS

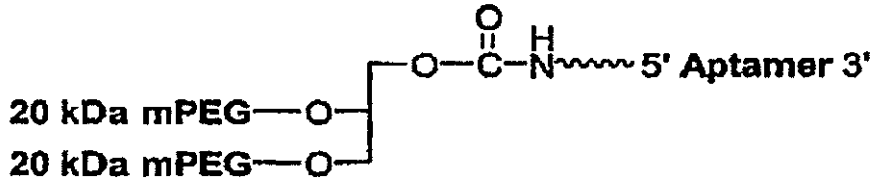
1. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the method comprising the step of administering a pegylated or an unpegylated aptamer to a subject in need thereof, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer binds to C5 complement and has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

2. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 1, wherein the method additionally comprises the step of administering to the subject an anti-VEGF agent, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody or antibody fragment directed against VEGF.

3. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer or anti-VEGF agent is administered by ocular administration, intravitreal administration, or peri-ocular administration.

4. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer or anti-VEGF agent is present in a depot formulation.

5. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

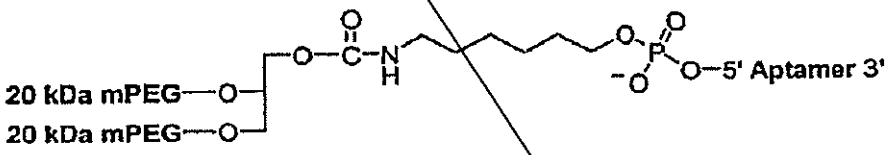
where ~~~~ indicates a linker, and

Aptamer =
fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf
CfUm GfCmG-3T (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

6. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 5, wherein the linker is an alkyl linker.

7. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 6, wherein the alkyl linker comprises 2 to 18 consecutive CH_2 groups.

8. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
where Aptamer=
fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf
CfUmGfCmG-3T (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

9. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody fragment directed against VEGF.

10. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 9, wherein the antagonist antibody fragment directed against VEGF is ranibizumab.

11. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody directed against VEGF.

12. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 11, wherein the antagonist antibody directed against VEGF is bevacizumab.

13. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of claims 2 to 12, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer and the anti-VEGF agent are administered sequentially or substantially simultaneously.

14. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the method additionally comprises, prior to administering the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer to the subject, the step of detecting (i) the presence of drusen in the absence of a clinical loss of visual acuity or (ii) a variation in the subject's complement factor H, thereby identifying a subject at risk of developing non-exudative type AMD.

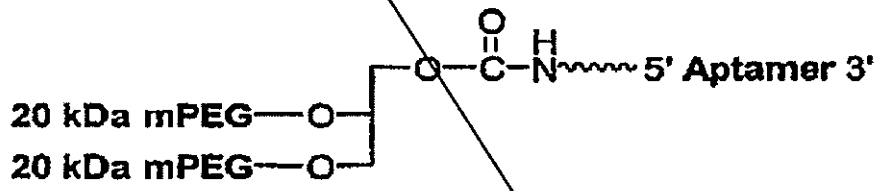
15. Use of a pegylated or unpegylated aptamer in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD, the method comprising the step of administering the pharmaceutical composition to a subject in need thereof, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer binds to C5 complement and has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the method additionally comprises the step of administering to the subject an anti-VEGF agent, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody or antibody fragment directed against VEGF.

17. The use according to claim 15 or 16, wherein the pharmaceutical composition or anti-VEGF agent is administered by ocular administration, intravitreal administration or peri-ocular administration.

18. The use according to any one of claims 15 to 17, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a depot formulation or the anti-VEGF agent is present in a depot formulation.

19. The use according to any one of claims 15 to 18, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

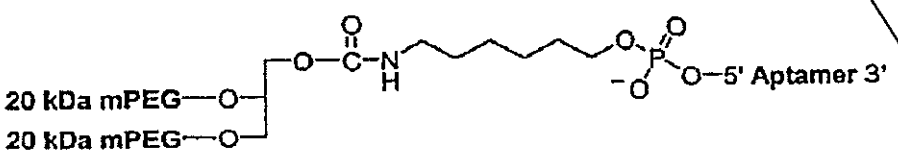
where ~~~~ indicates a linker, and

Aptamer = fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf CfUm GfCmG-3T (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

20. The use according to claim 19, wherein the linker is an alkyl linker.

21. The use according to claim 20, wherein the alkyl linker comprises 2 to 18 consecutive CH_2 groups.

22. The use according to any one of claims 15 to 21, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
where Aptamer=
fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf
CfUmGfCmG-3T (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

23. The use according to any one of claims 16 to 22, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody fragment directed against VEGF.

24. The use according to claim 23, wherein the antagonist antibody fragment directed against VEGF is ranibizumab.

25. The use according to any one of claims 16 to 22, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody directed against VEGF.

26. The use according to claim 25, wherein the antagonist antibody directed against VEGF is bevacizumab.

27. The use according to any one of claims 16 to 26, wherein the pharmaceutical composition and the anti-VEGF agent are administered sequentially or substantially simultaneously.

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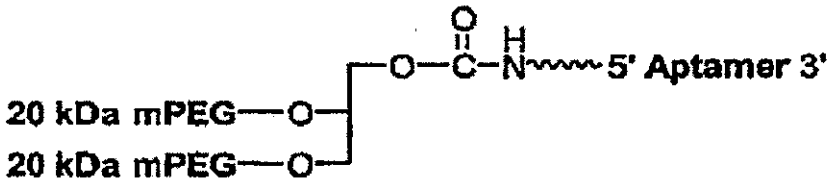
1. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the method comprising the step of administering a pegylated or an unpegylated aptamer to a subject in need thereof, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer binds to C5 complement and has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4.

2. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 1, wherein the method additionally comprises the step of administering to the subject an anti-VEGF agent, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody or antibody fragment directed against VEGF.

3. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer or anti-VEGF agent is administered by ocular administration, intravitreal administration, or peri-ocular administration.

4. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer or anti-VEGF agent is present in a depot formulation.

5. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following formula:

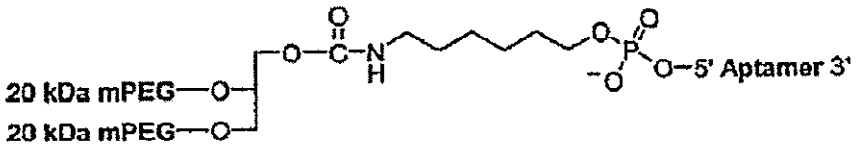


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, where ~~~~ indicates a linker, and Aptamer = fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf CfUm GfC-mG-3T (SEQ ID NO:4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

6. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 5, wherein the linker is an alkyl linker.

7. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 6, wherein the alkyl linker comprises 2 to 18 consecutive CH_2 groups.

8. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the aptamer is pegylated and has the following structure:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
where Aptamer= fCmGfCfCGfCmGmGfUfCfUfCmAmGmGfCGfCfUmGmAmGfUfCfUmGmAmGfUfUfUAfCf CfUmGfCmG-3T (SEQ ID NO: 4), wherein fC and fU = 2'-fluoro nucleotides, mG and mA = 2'-OMe nucleotides, all other nucleotides are 2'-OH, and 3T indicates an inverted deoxythymidine.

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10. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 9, wherein the antagonist antibody fragment directed against VEGF is ranibizumab.

11. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of claims 2 to 8, wherein the anti-VEGF agent is an antagonist antibody directed against VEGF.

12. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to claim 11, wherein the antagonist antibody directed against VEGF is bevacizumab.

13. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of claims 2 to 12, wherein the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer and the anti-VEGF agent are administered sequentially or substantially simultaneously.

14. A pegylated or unpegylated aptamer for use in a method of treating, stabilizing and/or preventing non-exudative type AMD according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the method additionally comprises, prior to administering the pegylated or unpegylated aptamer to the subject, the step of detecting (i) the presence of drusen in the absence of a clinical loss of visual acuity or (ii) a variation in the subject's complement factor H, thereby identifying a subject at risk of developing non-exudative type AMD.