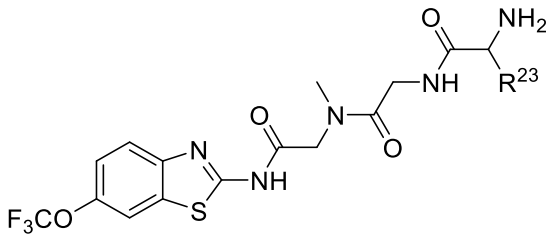
CLAIMS

What is claimed is

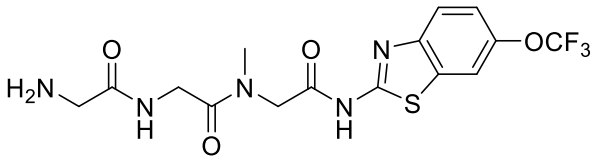
1. Use of a riluzole prodrug in the manufacture of a medicament for treating spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 in a patient in need thereof, wherein the riluzole prodrug has the following formula:



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein:

R_{23} is selected from the group consisting H, CH_3, CH_2CH_3, $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, CH_2CCH, $CH(CH_3)_2$, $CH_2CH(CH_3)_2$, $CH(CH_3)CH_2CH_3$, CH_2OH, CH_2OCH_2Ph, $CH_2CH_2OCH_2Ph$, $CH(OH)CH_3$, CH_2Ph, CH_2(cyclohexyl), CH_2(4-OH-Ph), $(CH_2)_4NH_2$, $(CH_2)_3NHC(NH_2)NH$, CH_2(3-indole), CH_2(5-imidazole), CH_2CO_2H, $CH_2CH_2CO_2H$, CH_2CONH_2, and $CH_2CH_2CONH_2$.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the riluzole prodrug has the following formula:



3. The use of claim 1 or 2, wherein the treatment provides an improvement in the patient's total SARA score of at least 0.8, or 0.9, or 1.0, or 1.1, or 1.2, or 1.3, or 1.4, or 1.5, or 1.6, or 1.7, or 1.8, or 1.9, or 2.0, or greater.

4. The use any one of claims 1-3, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient at a dosage of from about 17.5 to 200 mg per day.

5. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient at a dosage of about 17.5, or 35, or 70, or 100, or 140, or 200 mg per day.

6. The use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient at a dosage of 200 mg, once per day.

7. The use of any one of claims 1-6, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient at a dosage of 140 mg, once per day.

8. The use of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient once per day.

9. The use of any one claims 1-7, wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient twice per day.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-9 wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient in the form of a capsule.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-9 wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient in the form of a tablet.

12. The use of any one of claims 1-11 wherein the riluzole prodrug is administered to the patient for a duration of from about 8 weeks to 48 weeks.

13. Use of riluzole for treating spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 in a patient, comprising releasing a therapeutically effective amount of riluzole into plasma of the patient in need of such treatment.

14. The use of claim 13, wherein riluzole is released for the period of 8 weeks to 48 weeks.

15. The use of claim 13 or 14, wherein the treatment provides an improvement in the patient's total SARA score of at least 0.8, or 0.9, or 1.0, or 1.1, or 1.2, or 1.3, or 1.4, or 1.5, or 1.6, or 1.7, or 1.8, or 1.9, or 2.0, or greater.

16. Use of riluzole for treating spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 in a patient, comprising contacting plasma of the patient in need of such treatment with a therapeutically effective amount of riluzole.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the plasma is contacted for the period of 8 weeks to 48 weeks.

18. The use of claim 16 or 17, wherein the treatment provides an improvement in the patient's total SARA score of at least 0.8, or 0.9, or 1.0, or 1.1, or 1.2, or 1.3, or 1.4, or 1.5, or 1.6, or 1.7, or 1.8, or 1.9, or 2.0, or greater.