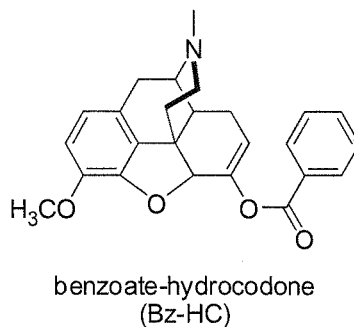


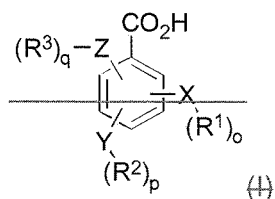
CLAIMS

1. ~~A composition comprising at least one~~ a conjugate, wherein the conjugate comprising is benzoate-hydrocodone (Bz-HC) having the following structure:



~~and at least one benzoic acid, a derivative thereof, a salt thereof, or a combination thereof.~~

2. ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one benzoic acid or benzoic acid derivative has the following formula I:~~



~~wherein,~~

~~X, Y and Z are independently selected from the group consisting of H, O, S, NH and $-(CH_2)_x$;~~

~~R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halo, haloalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, arylalkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and cycloalkynyl;~~

~~o , p , q are independently selected from 0 or 1; and
 x is an integer between 1 and 10.~~

3. ~~The composition of claim 1, wherein at least one benzoic acid or benzoic acid derivative is an aminobenzoate, a hydroxybenzoate, an aminohydroxybenzoate, a derivative thereof, or combination thereof.~~

4. ~~The composition of claim 3, wherein the aminobenzoate is selected from the group consisting of: anthranilic acid, 3-aminobenzoic acid, 4,5-dimethylantranilic acid, *N*-methylantranilic acid, *N*-acetylantranilic acid,~~

fenamic acids (e.g., tolfenamic acid, mefenamic acid, flufenamic acid), 2,4-diaminobenzoic acid (2,4-DABA), 2-acetylamino-4-aminobenzoic acid, 4-acetylamino-2-aminobenzoic acid, 2,4-diacetylaminobenzoic acid, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.

5. ~~The composition of claim 3, wherein the hydroxybenzoate is selected from the group consisting of salicylic acid, acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin), 3-hydroxybenzoic acid, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, 6-methylsalicylic acid, o,m,p-cresotinic acid, anacardic acids, 4,5-dimethylsalicylic acid, o,m,p-thymotic acid, diflusal, o,m,p-anisic acid, 2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid (2,3-DHB), α,β,γ -resorcylic acid, protocatechuic acid, gentisic acid, piperonylic acid, 3-methoxysalicylic acid, 4-methoxysalicylic acid, 5-methoxysalicylic acid, 6-methoxysalicylic acid, 3-hydroxy-2-methoxybenzoic acid, 4-hydroxy-2-methoxybenzoic acid, 5-hydroxy-2-methoxybenzoic acid, vanillic acid, isovanillic acid, 5-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid, 2,3-dimethoxybenzoic acid, 2,4-dimethoxybenzoic acid, 2,5-dimethoxybenzoic acid, 2,6-dimethoxybenzoic acid, veratric acid (3,4-dimethoxybenzoic acid), 3,5-dimethoxybenzoic acid, gallic acid, 2,3,4-trihydroxybenzoic acid, 2,3,6-trihydroxybenzoic acid, 2,4,5-trihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-O-methylgallic acid (3-OMGA), 4-O-methylgallic acid (4-OMGA), 3,4-O-dimethylgallic acid, syringic acid, 3,4,5-trimethoxybenzoic acid, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.~~

6. ~~The composition of claim 3, wherein the aminohydroxybenzoate is selected from the group consisting of 4-aminosalicylic acid, 3-hydroxyanthranilic acid, 3-methoxyanthranilic acid, derivatives thereof and combinations thereof.~~

7.2. ~~The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one~~the conjugate is used to treat narcotic or opioid abuse; to prevent narcotic or opioid withdrawal; to treat moderate to severe pain; to reduce or prevent oral, intranasal or intravenous drug abuse; or to provide oral, intranasal or parenteral drug abuse resistance.

8-3. The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~the conjugate exhibits an improved AUC and rate of release over time when compared to unconjugated hydrocodone over the same time period; exhibits less variability in the oral PK profile when compared to unconjugated hydrocodone; or has reduced side effects when compared with unconjugated hydrocodone.

9-4. The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~the conjugate is provided in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of: a tablet, a capsule, a caplet, a suppository, a troche, a lozenge, an oral powder, a solution, an oral film, a thin strip, a slurry, and a suspension.

10-5. The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~the conjugate is provided in an amount sufficient to provide a therapeutically bioequivalent AUC when compared to unconjugated hydrocodone.

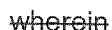
11-6. The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~the conjugate is provided in an amount sufficient to provide a therapeutically bioequivalent AUC and $C_{\max}$ when compared to an equivalent molar amount of unconjugated hydrocodone.

12-7. The composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~at least one~~the conjugate is provided in an amount sufficient to provide a therapeutically bioequivalent AUC and a lower $C_{\max}$ when compared to an equivalent molar amount of unconjugated hydrocodone.

13-8. Use of a composition of claim 1 ~~or 2~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a patient having a disease, disorder or condition mediated by binding of an opioid to opioid receptors of the patient, wherein said condition is selected from the group consisting of narcotic addiction, drug addiction, acute pain or chronic pain.

~~15-10.~~ The use of claim ~~138~~, wherein at least one conjugate binds reversibly to the opioid receptors of the patient without a CNS depressive effect.

~~47. The prodrug of claim 16, wherein the heteroaryl carboxylic acid is selected from formula II, formula III or formula IV, wherein formula II, formula III and formula IV are:~~



~~R¹, R² and R³ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkoxy, aryl, alkenyl, alkynyl, halo, haloalkyl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heterocycle, arylalkoxy, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl and cycloalkynyl;~~

~~x is an integer from 1 to 10.~~

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