Proposed Amendments

CLAIMS

Replaced by new Claims 1 to 10

~~1. A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infection in patients in need of such treating comprising administering an amount of alpha interferon in association with an amount of ribavirin effective to treat chronic hepatitis C infection with the absence or substantial reduction of side effects associated with administration of ribavirin and alpha interferon.~~

~~2. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of alpha interferon administered is less than 3 million IU weekly, QOD or daily.~~

~~3. The method of claim 2 wherein the amount of alpha interferon is administered 1 to 2 million IU weekly, QOD or daily.~~

~~4. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 400 to 1000 mg per day.~~

~~5. The method of claim 2 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 400 to 1000 mg per day.~~

~~6. The method of claim 3 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 400 to 1000 mg per day.~~

~~7. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 500 to 800 mg per day.~~

~~8. The method of claim 2 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 500 to 800 mg per day.~~

~~9 The method of claim 3 wherein the amount of ribavirin administered is from 500 to 800 mg per day.~~

~~10. The method of claim 1 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.~~

~~11. The method of claim 2 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.~~

~~12. The method of claim 3 wherein the alpha interferon~~ administered is interferon alpha-2b.

13. The method of claim 4 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

~~14.~~ The method of claim 5 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

15. The method of claim 6 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

16. The method of claim 7 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

18. The method of claim 9 wherein the alpha interferon administered is interferon alpha-2b.

19. The method or claim 1 wherein the absence or substantial reduction of side effects is achieved by a reduction in the amount of the dose of alpha interferon and/or ribavirin below the prior amount.

20. The method of claim 1 wherein the absence or substantial reduction of side effects is achieved by a shortening of the duration of the treatment with alpha interferon and ribavirin below the prior duration.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the duration of the treatment ~~is from 6 to 12 months.~~