

DESCRIPTION**COMPOSITIONS FOR ORAL CAVITY****5 Technical Field**

 This invention relates to compositions for the oral cavity, which permit adsorption of a pharmaceutically-active agent or a microbicidal agent at a high rate on the oral mucosas and are excellent in the effects of preventing and/or treating
10 parodontal diseases.

Background Art

 A variety of pharmaceutically-active agents is added in a composition for the oral cavity to prevent and/or treat
15 parodontal diseases. The pharmaceutically-active agents so added are desired to be adsorbed on the oral mucosas and to act effectively. Upon rinsing, however, their pharmaceutically-active ingredients are washed away so that not many of them are adsorbed on the mucosas. Further, no
20 sufficient effects were available for the prevention and/or treatment of parodontal diseases.

 An object of the present invention is to provide a composition for the oral cavity, which permits adsorption of a pharmaceutically-active agent or a microbicidal agent at a
25 high rate on the oral mucosas and is excellent in the effects

of preventing and/or treating paradental diseases.

Disclosure of the Invention

The present inventors have found that, when a
5 pharmaceutically-active agent or a microbicidal agent and an
exothermic ingredient or a water-soluble high-molecular
substance are combined and the water content of the resulting
composition for the oral cavity is controlled not higher than
5 wt.%, the adsorption rate of the added pharmaceutically-
10 active agent or microbicidal agent on the oral mucosae becomes
higher, thereby bringing about excellent effects for the
prevention and/or treatment of paradental diseases.

Accordingly, the present invention provides a
composition for the oral cavity, comprising (A) a
15 pharmaceutically-active agent, which acts on the periodontium,
or a microbicidal agent and (B) an exothermic ingredient or a
water-soluble high-molecular substance, said composition
having a water content not higher than 5 wt.%.

The present invention also provides an intraoral
20 treatment method, which comprises brushing the teeth and/or
gingivae with the above-described composition for the oral
cavity.

Brief Description of the Drawing

25 FIG. 1 illustrates a toothbrush provided with plaque

removing bristles and gingiva-massaging portions in combination.

Best Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

5 As the ingredient (A) employed in the present invention, illustrative of the pharmaceutically-active agent which acts on the periodontium are blood circulation stimulators, anti-inflammatory agents, hemostatic agents, analgesics, antihistamic agents, and plant extracts having effects of these
10 agents.

 Examples of the blood circulation stimulators can include vitamin E, dl- α -tocopherol nicotinate, and sodium chloride; and examples of the anti-inflammatory agents can include allantoin, β -glycyrrhetic acid, glycyrrhetic acid, epidihydro-
15 cholesterol, dihydrocholesterol, ϵ -aminocaproic acid, hinokitiol, lysozyme chloride, indomethacin, and ibuprofen. Examples of the hemostatic agents can include tranexamic acid, thrombin, ascorbic acid, and rutin. Examples of the analgesics can include cimetidine, chlorpheniramine maleate,
20 diphenhydramine hydrochloride, and promethazine hydrochloride. Examples of the plant extracts can include fennel extract, turmeric extract, scutellaria root extract, *Hypericum erectum* extract, chamomile extract, *Sasa albo-marginata* extract, *Labiatae* extract, sage extract, clove extract, ginseng extract,
25 witch-hazel extract, fucus extract, horse chestnut extract,

peach leave extract, rosemary extract, and eucalyptus extract.

On the other hand, examples of the microbicidal agent can include benzethonium chloride, chlorhexidine chloride, triclosan, cetylpyridinium chloride, isopropylmethylphenol, 5 dequalinium chloride, and alkyldiaminoethylglycin hydrochloride.

These ingredients (A) can be used either singly or in combination, and preferably, can be added in a proportion of from 0.001 to 5 wt.%, notably from 0.01 to 1 wt.% based on the 10 whole composition.

As the ingredient (B) employed in the present invention, the exothermic ingredient can be an exothermic substance which produces heat through a hydration reaction in the oral cavity. It is preferred to use the exothermic ingredient such that the 15 resulting temperature reaches 38 to 50°C, especially 40 to 45°C. Specific examples of the exothermic ingredient can include anhydrous zeolite, anhydrous magnesium sulfate, sodium metaphosphate, calcium chloride, and dextrin.

Exothermic ingredients can be used either singly or in 20 combination, and preferably, can be added in a proportion of from 5 to 50 wt.%, notably from 20 to 30 wt.% based on the whole composition.

On the other hand, examples of the water-soluble high-molecular substance as the ingredient (B) can include 25 xanthan gum, dextrin, carageenan, hydroxypropylcellulose,

and hydroxyethylcellulose. Of these, xanthan gum is most preferred when the water content is not higher than 5 wt.% as in the present invention.

5 These water-soluble high-molecular substances can be used either singly or in combination, and preferably, can be added in a proportion of from 0.1 to 2 wt.%, notably from 0.2 to 0.8 wt.%.

As the ingredient (B), one or more exothermic substances and one or more water-soluble high-molecular substances can be
10 used in combination.

When an exothermic ingredient is used as the ingredient(B), thermal effects are available upon use. Massaging of gingivae with a composition for the oral cavity, said composition having such thermal effects, markedly improves
15 the lymph function of the gingivae, so that the composition is useful for the prevention and/or treatment of paradental diseases. Further, use of a pharmaceutically-active agent, which acts on the periodontium, as the ingredient (A) makes it possible to correct the balance between a supply and a recovery
20 of the interstitial fluid and hence, to promptly remedy and/or prevent paradental diseases, so that the resulting composition is more useful.

In addition, the use of the composition for the oral cavity, said composition having the thermal effects, hardly
25 causes an ache and hence, permits comfortable brushing even when

used by a hypersensitive person whose teeth are hurt by cold water.

The composition of this invention for the oral cavity has a water content not higher than 5 wt.%, preferably 3 wt.% or lower. Controlling of the water content at such a level can increase the adsorption rate of the pharmaceutically-active ingredient or the like on the oral mucosas and therefore, can heighten the effects for the prevention and/or treatment of parodontal diseases.

10 An alkaline earth metal salt can be additionally incorporated in the composition of this invention for the oral cavity. It can reduce temperature-dependent variations of the viscosity of the composition. Described specifically, a paste or the like, the water content of which is low, becomes low in viscosity when exposed to high temperatures and, even after its temperature is allowed to drop to room temperature, is unable to regain its initial viscosity, so that the feeling of use may be impaired in some instances. When such an alkaline earth metal salt is added, the viscosity of the resulting composition does not drop but remains constant even after exposed to high temperatures.

The alkaline earth metal salt may be one of the exothermic substances exemplified above. Other examples can include magnesium salts such as magnesium chloride, magnesium hydroxide, magnesium lactate, magnesium oxide, magnesium nitrate,

magnesium phosphate, and magnesium stearate; calcium salts such as calcium sulfate, calcium nitrate, calcium hydroxide, calcium gluconate, calcium pyrophosphate, calcium lactate, calcium metaphosphate, and calcium stearate; and barium salts such a
5 barium chloride, barium nitrate, and barium stearate.

These alkaline earth metal salts can be used either singly or in combination, and for the stabilization of the viscosity, can preferably be added in a proportion of from 0.01 to 1 wt.%, especially from 0.05 to 0.8 wt.%, typically from 0.1 to 0.5 wt.%
10 based on the whole composition.

To the composition of this invention for the oral cavity, glycerin, propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol, triglyceride, diglyceride, liquid paraffin or the like can be added as a liquid vehicle. These liquid vehicles can be used either singly or
15 in combination and preferably, can be added in a proportion of from 30 to 80 wt.%, especially from 40 to 60 wt.% based on the whole composition.

Using one or more of these liquid vehicles, the composition of the present invention for the oral cavity may
20 preferably be formulated into a use form such as gel, liquid, or paste.

Further, it is also possible to adjust the viscosity of the composition of this invention for the oral cavity by adding, in addition to the above-described water-soluble high-
25 molecular substance, a thickener such as thickening silica

(anhydrous silicic acid) or the like as needed.

It is preferred to use one or more of such thickeners to adjust the Helical-path viscosity of the composition at 25°C such that it falls within 3,000 to 15,000 dPa·s, especially 4,000 to 10,000 dPa·s. Incidentally, "Helical-path viscosity" as used herein means a value measured by using a "B8R-type Viscometer" equipped with a helical stand controller (rotor E, rotational speed: 2.5 r/min, measured: for 1 minute).

To the composition of this invention for the oral cavity, ingredients commonly employed in compositions for the oral cavity, for example, surfactants, abrasives, sweeteners, flavoring agents, preservatives, whitening agents, humectants, binders and the like can be added as needed to extents not impairing the effects of the present invention.

The composition of this invention for the oral cavity can be produced in a manner known *per se* in the art.

The composition of this invention for the oral cavity permits adsorption of a pharmaceutically-active ingredient or the like at a high rate on the oral mucosas, and is excellent in the effects of preventing and/or treating paradental diseases. The composition according to the present invention, therefore, is useful as a periodontium, especially gingiva care composition and also as a dentifrice composition, especially a toothpaste composition.

The composition according to the present invention may

preferably be used by applying it into the oral cavity and brushing the teeth and/or gingivae. For such brushing, use of a toothbrush provided with plaque removing bristles and gingiva-massaging portions in combination is especially preferred, although a conventional toothbrush, namely, a toothbrush having plaque removing bristles or a toothbrush having massaging portions may also be used. Usable as these toothbrushes are those disclosed, for example, in JP 5-228019 A, JUM 47-1378 A, JUM 62-35527 A, JUM 6-31940 B and JUM 6-12647 B.

Specific usable examples can include those having rubbery bristles implanted or bonded on an outer edge portion of an inner wall of a block head and those having tufts and/or rubbery rod-like bristles implanted aslant on an outer edge portion of an inner wall of a block head such that the tufts and/or rubbery rod-like bristles extend in outward directions.

Among these, a toothbrush - which is provided, at at least longitudinal edge portions of an inner wall of a block head thereof, with portions where plural types of tufts different in the modulus of elasticity and length or rubbery rod-like bristles extend aslant in outward directions (see FIG. 1) - is suitable because it allows to efficiently massage the margins and papillae of the gingivae at the same time.

Concerning the different moduli of elasticity, it is preferred, for example, to implant two or more kinds of bristles

or rubbery rod-like bristles different in the modulus of elasticity when only bristle tufts or rubbery rod-like bristles are used or to implant bristle tufts and rubbery rod-like bristles, which are different in the modulus of elasticity, together when bristles and rubbery rod-like bristles are used in combination. The different lengths, on the other hand, may comprise two or more lengths. It is preferred to make those having a higher modulus of elasticity longer than those having a lower modulus of elasticity. The difference between the longer length and the shorter length may preferably range from 0.5 to 3.0 mm or so. Further, the rubbery rod-like bristles may preferably have, as a transverse cross-sectional shape thereof, a substantially triangular shape with a longest side thereof directed outwards.

When brushing is performed in a usual manner by using the composition of the present invention and the above-described toothbrush, the teeth and gingivae can be brushed at the same time, thereby making it possible to effectively perform removal of plaque and massaging of the gingivae at the same time.

20

Examples

Example 1

Dentifrices of the formulations shown in Table 1 were prepared in a manner known *per se* in the art.

Each of the thus-obtained dentifrices had high adsorption

rates of the pharmaceutically-active agents on the oral mucosas and was excellent in the effects of preventing and/or treating paradental diseases. With Invention Products 1-3, thermal effects were also obtained, bringing about superior effects.

Table 1

Ingredient (parts by weight)	Invention product			
	1	2	3	4
dl- α -Tocopherol acetate	0.10			0.10
dl- α -Tocopherol nicotinate			0.05	
β -Glycyrrhetic acid	0.01			
Allantoin		0.01		
Triclosan			0.01	
Benzethonium chloride	0.01			0.01
Cetylpyridinium chloride		0.01		
Anhydrous zeolite	20.0	45.0	30.0	
Magnesium sulfate	5.0			
Xanthan gum	0.50		0.80	
Hydroxypropylcellulose		0.50		
Carageenan				0.40
Calcium hydrogenphosphate	10.0			
Calcium carbonate			20.0	20.0
Glycerin	32.0	51.33	37.0	30.46
Propylene glycol	25.18			29.0
Polyethylene glycol 600			10.0	
Anhydrous silicic acid	5.0			12.0
Sodium laurylsulfate	1.0	1.0	0.50	1.10
Sodium monofluorophosphate		0.76		0.68
Paraoxybezoate ester		0.10	0.10	0.10
Saccharin sodium	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.15
Flavoring agent	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Purified water		q.s.	q.s.	q.s.
Total	100	100	100	100
Helical-path viscosity (25°C;dPa·s)	4800	14200	6800	13500

Example 2

- 5 A dental cream of the formulation shown below was prepared in a manner known *per se* in the art (helical-path viscosity at 25°C: 14,800 dPa·s).

The thus-obtained dental cream was suited for massaging the gingivae, and excellent effects were obtained for the prevention and treatment of parodontal diseases.

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Table 2

	(Ingredient)	(wt.%)
	Cetylpyridinium chloride	0.01
	β -Glycyrrhetic acid	0.01
	Triglyceride	27.85
10	Liquid paraffin	25.93
	Xanthan gum	0.20
	Dextrin	35.00
	Anhydrous silica	10.00
	Flavoring agent	1.00
15	Total	100.00

Test 1 (Water content, and remaining amount of pharmaceutically-active agent)

Paste A of the formulation shown in Table 3, which contained 0.1% of vitamin E and was controlled at about 5 wt.% in water content, and Paste B of the formulation presented in Table 3, which contained 0.1% of vitamin E and was controlled at about 10 wt.% in water content, were separately dispersed to a concentration of 1.0 g/mL in artificial saliva. After each paste solution was centrifuged, 1 g of the resultant supernatant was added to 0.5 g of oral mucosa cells sampled by the method

reported by N.R. Badcock et al. in J. Chromatography, **328**,
 290-296 (1986). The mixture so obtained was stirred and then
 left standstill under incubation at 37°C. After the treated
 oral mucosa cells of each test sample were washed with deionized
 5 water, vitamin E still remaining in the oral mucosa cells was
 extracted in methanol by ultrasonic disruption, and the
 extracted vitamin E was quantitated by high-performance liquid
 chromatography.

As a result, the amount of vitamin E remaining in the oral
 10 mucosa cells after the treatment of Paste A was found to be three
 times as much as that of vitamin E remaining after the treatment
 of Paste B.

Table 3

15

Ingredient (wt.%)	Paste A	Paste B
Vitamin E	0.1	0.1
Propylene glycol	53.4	48.2
Xanthan gum	0.5	0.5
Sodium laurylsulfate	1.0	1.0
Anhydrous silicic acid	12.0	12.0
Calcium hydrogenphosphate	30.0	30.0
Purified water	3.0	8.2
Total	100	100
Helical-pass viscosity (25°C;dPa·s)	7840	16000

Test 2 (Remaining amount of pharmaceutically-active agent
upon addition of exothermic ingredient)

Pastes C-F, to which 0.1% of vitamin E had been added and
an exothermic ingredient had also been added (water content:
5 about 3 wt.%), were separately dispersed to a concentration of
1.0 g/mL in artificial saliva of 37°C, immediately followed by
the measurement of the temperatures of the thus-dispersed
solutions. After each paste solution was centrifuged, its
supernatant was caused to react with oral mucosa cells in a
10 similar manner as in Test 1, and the reaction mixture was left
standstill for 3 minutes at the above-measured temperature of
the corresponding dispersed solution. Vitamin E still
remaining in the oral mucosa cells was quantitated as in Test
1.

15 As a result, it was found that compared with Paste C to
which the exothermic ingredient was not added, the remaining
amount of vitamin E was 1.2 times as much in the case of Paste
D the temperature of which reached 38°C, 1.8 times as much in
the case of Paste E the temperature of which reached 40°C, and
20 2 times as much in the case of Paste F the temperature of which
reached 50°C.

Table 4

Ingredient (wt.%)	Paste C	Paste D	Paste E	Paste F
Vitamin E	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Propylene glycol	72.4	72.4	72.4	72.4
Xanthan gum	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Sodium laurylsulfate	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Anhydrous silicic acid	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Sodium hydrogenphosphate	20.0	-	-	-
Sodium metaphosphate	-	20.0	-	-
Anhydrous zeolite	-	-	20.0	-
Anhydrous magnesium sulfate	-	-	-	20.0
Total	100	100	100	100
Helical-pass viscosity (25°C;dPa·s)	2800	5700	4800	6000
Temperature*	25°C	25°C	25°C	25°C

* Temperature of each paste after stirring subsequent to the addition of an equiamount of artificial saliva (37°C).

Example 3

Dentifrices (pastes) of the formulations shown in Table 5 were prepared in a manner known *per se* in the art.

Each of the thus-obtained dentifrices had high adsorption rates of the pharmaceutically-active agents on the oral mucosas and was excellent in the effects of preventing and/or treating paradental diseases.

With respect to the dentifrices so obtained, temperature cycling storage at 25°C-50°C-25°C (at each of which the dentifrices were stored for 24) was conducted, and the viscosities of the dentifrices were measured by a helical-pass viscometer both before and after the storage. As a result, it was found that after the storage, each of the pastes was free of a drop in the viscosity and its viscosity remained constant.

Table 5

Ingredient (parts by weight)	Invention product			
	5	6	7	8
dl- α -Tocopherol acetate	0.10			0.10
dl- α -Tocopherol nicotinate			0.05	
β -Glycyrrhetic acid	0.01			
Triclosan			0.01	
Benzethonium chloride	0.01			0.01
Cetylpyridinium chloride		0.01		
Anhydrous zeolite		30.0	20.00	
Magnesium sulfate	0.50			
Xanthan gum	0.50		0.50	
Hydroxypropylcellulose		0.50		
Carageenan				0.40
Calcium sulfate		0.20		
Barium sulfate		0.20		
Calcium hydrogenphosphate	18.0			
Magnesium hydroxide			0.10	
Calcium carbonate				20.0
Calcium gluconate				0.70
Glycerin	40.00	46.03	37.54	33.36
Propylene glycol	28.59	20.0		30.0
Polyethylene glycol 600			10.0	
Anhydrous silicic acid	10.0			12.0
Aluminum hydroxide			30.0	
Sodium laurylsulfate	1.0	1.0	0.50	1.10
Sodium monofluorophosphate		0.76		0.68
Paraoxybenzoate ester		0.10	0.10	
Saccharin sodium	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.15
Flavoring agent	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Purified water				q.s.
Total	100	100	100	100
Helical-path viscosity (25°C;dPa·s)	10000	10400	13800	12000

Example 5

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Using the dentifrices of Invention Products 1 and 2 in

Table 1, those suffering from light inflammation at their gingivae brushed their teeth with toothbrushes each of which was provided with plaque-removing bristles and gingiva-massaging portions as shown in FIG. 1. Compared with brushing the teeth with conventional toothbrushes, a higher effect was observed in improving the inflammation of the gingivae.

Industrial Applicability

The compositions of the present invention for the cavity permit adsorption of a pharmaceutically-active agent or a microbicidal agent at a high rate on the oral mucosas and are excellent in the effects of preventing and/or treating paradental diseases.



CLAIMS

1. (amended) A composition for the oral cavity, comprising (A) a pharmaceutically-active agent, which acts on the periodontium or a microbicidal agent; (B) an exothermic ingredient or a water-soluble high-molecular substance; and (C) a surfactant, said composition having a water content not higher than 5 wt.%.

2. A composition for the oral cavity according to claim 1, wherein said composition has a helical-path viscosity at 25°C of from 3,000 to 15,000 dPa·s.

3. A composition for the oral cavity according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising an alkaline earth metal salt.

4. A composition for the oral cavity according to any one of claims 1-3, which is a periodontium care composition.

5. A composition for the oral cavity according to any one of claims 1-3, which is a dentifrice composition.

6. An intraoral treatment method, which comprises brushing the teeth and/or gingivae with a composition for the oral cavity according to any one of claims 1-5.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said brushing is performed by a toothbrush provided with plaque removing bristles and gingiva-massaging portions in combination.