Claims:

Claim 1. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be sublingually administered to said subject and wherein the medicament does not cause significant sedation.

Claim 2. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be sublingually administered to said subject and wherein the agitation is associated with a neurodegenerative disease.

Claim 3. The use according to Claim 2, wherein the treatment is effective to suppress agitation or the symptoms of agitation in a subject without also causing significant sedation.

Claim 4. The use according to Claim 2 or Claim 3, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer disease, frontotemporal dementia (FTD), dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), post-traumatic stress disorder, Parkinson's disease, vascular dementia, vascular cognitive impairment, Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, multiple system atrophy, and progressive supranuclear palsy.

Claim 5. The use according to Claim 4, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease.

Claim 6. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be sublingually administered to said subject and wherein the agitation is associated with a neuropsychiatric disease.

Claim 7. The use according to Claim 6, wherein the treatment is effective to suppress agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject without also causing significant sedation.

Claim 8. The use according to Claim 6 or Claim 7, wherein said neuropsychiatric disease is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, bipolar mania, delirium, and depression.

Claim 9. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, wherein the medicament is to be administered sublingually in a dosage form selected from the group consisting of a film, wafer, patch, lozenge, gel, spray, tablet and liquid drops.

Claim 10. The use according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, wherein the medicament is to be administered sublingually at a dosage in the range of about 3 micrograms to about 100 micrograms.

Claim 11. The use according to Claim 10, wherein said dosage is about 5 micrograms to about 30 micrograms.

Claim 12. A sublingual composition for use in treating agitation or the signs of agitation comprising an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers/excipients.

Claim 13. The sublingual composition according to Claim 12, wherein said treatment is effective to suppress agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject without also causing significant sedation.

Claim 14. The sublingual composition according to Claim 12, wherein the agitation is associated with a neurodegenerative disease.

Claim 15. The sublingual composition according to Claim 14, wherein said treatment is effective to suppress agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject without also causing significant sedation.

Claim 16. The sublingual composition according to Claim 14 or Claim 15, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer disease, frontotemporal dementia (FTD), dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), post-traumatic stress disorder, Parkinson's disease, vascular dementia, vascular cognitive impairment, Huntington's disease, multiple sclerosis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, multiple system atrophy, and progressive supranuclear palsy.

Claim 17. The sublingual composition according to Claim 16, wherein said neurodegenerative disease is selected from the group consisting of dementia, frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease.

Claim 18. The sublingual composition according to Claim 12, wherein the agitation is associated with a neuropsychiatric disease.

Claim 19. The sublingual composition according to Claim 18, wherein said treatment is effective to suppress agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject without also causing significant sedation.

Claim 20. The sublingual composition according to Claim 18 or 19, wherein said neuropsychiatric disease is selected from the group consisting of schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, bipolar mania, delirium, and depression.

Claim 21. The sublingual composition according to any one of Claims 12 to 20, wherein the dosage form is selected from the group consisting of a film, wafer, patch, lozenge, gel, spray, tablet and liquid drops.

Claim 22. The sublingual composition according to Claim 21, wherein said dosage form is a thin film.

Claim 23. The sublingual composition according to Claim 21 or Claim 22, wherein said film is mucoadhesive in nature and provides a quick onset of action.

Claim 24. The sublingual composition according to any one of Claims 12 to 23, wherein said composition comprises Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof at a dosage in the range of about 3 micrograms to about 100 micrograms.

Claim 25. The sublingual composition according to Claim 24, wherein said dosage is about 5 micrograms to about 30 micrograms.

Claim 26. The sublingual composition according to any one of claims 12 to 25, which upon administration produces a therapeutic effect to suppress agitation in about 30 seconds to about 30 minutes without causing significant sedation.

Claim 27. A sublingual composition for use in treating agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject comprising an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said agitation is not perioperative agitation.

Claim 28. Use of an effective amount of Dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of agitation or the signs of agitation in a subject, wherein the medicament is to be sublingually administered to said subject and wherein said agitation is not perioperative agitation.