

THERAPEUTICALLY ACTIVE COMPOSITIONS

5 The present invention relates to compositions for
the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
and more particularly to locally acting
compositions which are active in the post-stomach
10 region of the gastro-intestinal (GI) tract.

15 Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) is part of a
spectrum of diseases known generally as Functional
Gastrointestinal Disorders which include diseases
such as non-cardiac chest pain, non-ulcer
dyspepsia, and chronic constipation or diarrhoea.
These diseases are all characterised by chronic or
20 recurrent gastrointestinal symptoms for which no
structural or biochemical cause can be found.
Irritable bowel syndrome in the UK alone is
responsible for 30-50% of all gastroenterology
25 referrals to secondary care.

30 IBS is believed to be due to a number of
factors such as physiological, emotional,
cognitive and behavioural factors and is
frequently encountered during periods of stress.
Diagnosis of IBS is one of exclusion and is based
35 on the observed symptoms in any given case.
Commonly accepted criteria for IBS, known as the
"Rome" criteria, include at least 3 months of
continuous or recurrent symptoms of:
40 1. abdominal pain or discomfort that is relieved
with defecation, and/or associated with a change
in the frequency of stools, and/or associated with
a change in the consistency of stool; and
45 2. two or more of the following on at least a
quarter of occasions: altered stool frequency,

altered stool form, altered stool passage, passage of mucus, and/or bloating or feeling of abdominal distension.

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Conventional treatments of IBS are based on the severity and the nature of each person's symptoms and whether or not any psychological factors are involved. Treatment of IBS may include one or more of the following: lifestyle changes, pharmacological treatment and psychological treatment. However, there is no general treatment which is applicable to all cases of IBS.

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In certain cases, the exclusion of foods which aggravate IBS symptoms is recommended. However, this type of treatment is only effective when the underlying cause of IBS is related to diet.

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Pharmacologically active agents are often used to treat IBS. Anti-diarrhoeals (for example, loperamide), smooth muscle relaxants (for example, mebeverine hydrochloride or alverine citrate), or antidepressants may be effective in treating IBS. However, there is no single pharmacologically active agent which is completely effective in alleviating the symptoms or curing IBS.

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Psychological factors may be used in the treatment of IBS. Again, however, this treatment does not provide a universal cure for the symptoms of IBS since not all cases of IBS are due to psychological factors.

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One method of treating pathological conditions of the small and large intestines is disclosed in US Patent No. 5431914. This patent
5 discloses that the external application of capsaicin to the skin in specific regions affects certain nerves in the skin which lead to spinal
10 cord segments. Thus, it is suggested that topical application of a dose of 0.03mg capsaicin to the anterior and posterior divisions of spinal nerves T12 to S3 can be used to treat IBS. However, a
15 clear mechanism of the mode of operation of this invention is not known.

Such a regime of self-administration is
20 unlikely to be effective because the composition must be applied to a specific site which is not necessarily readily apparent to the patient. In
25 addition, it is likely to be difficult to control the dosage when applying the composition of US Patent No. 5431914 since it is in the form of a topical cream.

30 A need therefore exists for a composition which is able to relieve the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome which ideally is in a form which is
35 easily handled, may be administered in a unit dosage form and which is capable of being self administered by patients.

40 To alleviate the problems of IBS, according to a first aspect to the present invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition for use
45 in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal,

preferably a human patient, the composition comprising:

- 5 i) one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof, (component a); and
10 ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle (component b),

wherein component b) is selected to enable component a) to be released in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

15 Preferably component a) is present in a IBS symptom alleviating amount.

20 Preferably the composition according to the invention contains from 0.001 to 30% of component a), more preferably from 0.01 to 20%, most preferably from 0.1 to 10% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

25 Preferably the composition according to the invention contains from 70 to 99.999% component b), more preferably from 80 to 99.99%, most preferably from 90 to 99.9% by weight of the composition.

30 According to a second aspect of the invention, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition as described above with respect to the first aspect of the invention, but which further includes an enteric coating (component c) encasing components (a) and (b).

According to a third aspect of the invention, there is provided a process for the alleviation of symptoms associated with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) in a mammalian patient, preferably a human patient, afflicted with said symptoms, which process comprises the step of:

administering, preferably orally administering, a therapeutically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to either the first, or second aspects of the invention as described above, in order to alleviate said symptoms associated with Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

According to a fourth aspect of the invention, there is provided the process according to the third aspect of the invention as described above, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is in a sustained release form, which form is substantially released (i.e., at least 75% of component (a) in the pharmaceutical composition) in the gastrointestinal region after the stomach and before the rectum of the patient being treated.

In the context of the present invention, component a) should be understood to be a compound or a mixture of compounds having a biologically active vanillyl group. Component a) therefore includes both naturally occurring and synthetic vanilloids, pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the vanilloid compound (whether natural or synthetic) as well as pharmaceutically acceptable

derivatives and/or analogues thereof (whether natural or synthetic).

5 Included in the ambit of the naturally occurring vanilloid compounds are both crude extracts and purified extracts of active vanilloid compounds.

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 Examples of natural vanilloid compounds suitable for use in the present invention therefore include both the crude extracts and the
15 purified extracts of active vanilloid compounds from: capsicum, cayenne pepper, black pepper, paprika, cinnamon, clove, mace, mustard, ginger,
20 tumeric, papaya seed and the cactus-like plant *Euphorbia resinifera*.

 Synthetic vanilloid compounds such as
25 synthetic capsaicin as defined in WO 96/40079 are also envisaged to be included in or comprise component a) in the compositions of the present invention and the disclosure of such compounds as
30 exemplified in WO 96/40079 is incorporated herein by reference.

35 The composition of the present invention may therefore include both a crude vanilloid compound-containing extract (obtained by extracting the natural product) and/or a pure
40 vanilloid compound itself (obtained either by synthesis or by refining a crude extract). Thus, in the case of capsaicin, for example, one might
45 also find dihydrocapsaicin present in the crude extract.

In so far as the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of component a) are concerned, the therapeutic activity resides in the moiety derived from the vanilloid, and identity of any salt portion when present is of minor importance.

For therapeutic and prophylactic purposes, examples of pharmaceutically acceptable salts include those derived from mineral acids, such as hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, metaphosphoric, nitric and sulphuric acids, and organic acids, such as tartaric, acetic, trifluoroacetic, citric, malic, lactic, fumaric, benzoic, glycollic, gluconic, succinic and methanesulphonic and arylsulphonic, for example p-toluenesulphonic acids.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention active vanilloid compounds of component a) are selected from capsaicin ((E)-(N)-[(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-methyl]-8-methyl-6-nonenamide); eugenol (2-methoxy-4-(2-propenyl)phenol); zingerone (4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-butanone); curcumin (1,7-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-1,6-heptadiene-3,5-dione); piperine (1-[5-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1-oxo-2,4-pentadienyl] piperidine); resiniferatoxin (6,7-deepoxy-6,7-didehydro-5-deoxy-21-dephenyl-21-(phenylmethyl)-20-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzeneacetate)) or pharmaceutically effective salts, analogues, derivatives or equivalents thereof. Capsaicin, eugenol and resiniferatoxin are more preferred with capsaicin being most preferred.

Component b) of the present invention may comprise and/or include one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or diluents. Such excipients or diluents include but are not limited to mixtures of polyalcohol glycerol and fatty acid esters such as Gelucire (TM of Gattefosse), a carbomer such as Carbopol 947P (TM of Goodrich), calcium carbonate, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium bicarbonate, lactose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, talc, dioctyl sodium sulphasuccinate, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, methyl paraben, tris (hydroxymethyl)methylamine, citric acid monohydrate, cocoa butter, gelatin, glycerin and/or hydrogenated vegetable oils.

Preferably the composition is an oral delivery form. A composition according to one embodiment of the present invention is therefore preferably administered orally in a sustained-release form to release component a) in the lower GI tract to induce desensitisation, thereby protecting the patient from pain or discomfort associated with the lower GI tract.

The composition may be provided in unit dosage form as a tablet, a capsule, a gel, a powder, spheroids and/or granules. In an especially advantageous embodiment, the composition is provided as a tablet, capsule, spheroid or granule provided with an enteric coating.

Preferably, the excipients and/or diluents are present in an amount of from 0.1mg to 1500mg,

most preferably from 10mg to 100mg per unit dosage form.

5 Preferably a tablet unit dosage form comprises:

- 10 i) 0.01 to 300mg of component a);
 ii) any one or more of
 0.1 to 500mg microcrystalline cellulose;
 0.1 to 200mg lactose or equivalent sugar;
 0.1 to 90mg croscarmellose salt, preferably
15 croscarmellose sodium;
 0.1 to 20mg of a stearate salt, preferably
 magnesium stearate; and
 iii) an enteric coating of from 1 to 500µm,
20 all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

 Preferably a capsule unit dosage form comprises:

- 25 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a);
 ii) any one or more of
 0.1 to 250mg mixture of polyalcohol glycerol
30 and fatty acid esters;
 0.1 to 500mg microcrystalline cellulose;
 0.1 to 200mg lactose or equivalent sugar;
 0.1 to 90mg croscarmellose salt, preferably
35 croscarmellose sodium;
 0.1 to 20mg talc;
 0.1 to 20mg of a stearate salt, preferably
 magnesium stearate; and
40 iii) an enteric coating of from 1 to 500µm,
 all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

 Preferably a gel unit dosage form comprises:

- 45 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a);

- ii) at least 0.1 to 999.99mg of a pharmaceutically acceptable polymer gel; and
iii) water, preferably deionised water,
5 all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

Preferably a powder unit dosage form comprises:

- 10 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a); and
ii) any one or more of
0.1 to 200mg of a carbonate, preferably
15 calcium carbonate;
0.1 to 500mg microcrystalline cellulose; and
0.1 to 50mg of a bicarbonate, preferably
sodium bicarbonate,
20 all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

Preferably a spheroid unit dosage form comprises:

- 25 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a); and
ii) any one or more of
0.1 to 500mg microcrystalline cellulose;
0.1 to 200mg lactose or equivalent sugar;
30 0.1 to 90mg a croscarmellose salt, preferably
croscarmellose sodium; and
iii) an enteric coating of from 1 to 500µm,
35 all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

Preferably a granule unit dosage form comprises:

- 40 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a); and
ii) any one or more of
0.1 to 200mg carbopol;
0.1 to 200mg of a carbonate, preferably
45 calcium carbonate;
0.1 to 500mg microcrystalline cellulose; and

0.1 to 50mg of a bicarbonate, preferably sodium bicarbonate, all weights being per 1000mg of composition.

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The capsules or spheroids may be liquid- or solid-filled. The important feature is that the mode of delivery enables release, preferably sustained release, of component a) in the lower GI tract. Other suitable delivery forms such as matrix tablets and wax matrices will therefore be apparent to the skilled person.

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Preferably, each unit dosage contains from 0.01 to 300mg, preferably 0.1 to 25mg, most preferably 1 to 20mg of component a) per 1000mg of composition.

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The amount of component a) required will depend on the particular vanilloid compound used, the severity of the condition being treated, the nature of the oral composition, and the age, weight and condition of the patient.

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The dosage administered may ultimately be at the discretion of an attendant physician or may be within a pre-defined range for self-administration by the patient. However, an effective amount of component a) for the treatment of IBS will generally be in the range of 0.01mg to 40mg per day and more usually will be in the range of 0.1mg to 10mg per day. This amount may be given in a single dose per day or more usually in a number (such as two, three, four, five or six) of sub-doses per day such that the total daily dose is as noted previously.

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The amount of component a) contained in the composition will, of course, depend on component b) as well as on the particular vanilloid compound(s) included in component a). For example, capsaicin is much more effective than eugenol and thus the dosage of capsaicin which is needed to achieve the same effect as a dosage of another vanilloid compound, such as eugenol, may be 10 or 100 times smaller.

An effective amount of component a) in the case in which the vanilloid compound is present as a salt may be determined as a proportion of the effective amount of the free active vanilloid compound per se.

As mentioned previously the composition may be enterically coated to provide release of component a) in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum. The enteric coating applied to the unit dosage form may range in thickness from between 1 and 500 μ m, preferably between 5 and 100 μ m, most preferably between 20 and 50 μ m.

A suitable enteric coating comprises pH sensitive biodegradable polymers, as, for example, included in Opadry Aqueous Enteric, manufactured by Colorcon.

It will be appreciated, however, that other release mechanisms for post stomach (enteric) delivery of component a) may be used, for example, non-pH sensitive biodegradable polymers, or other

materials useful for enteric delivery as known in the art.

5 Alternatively, or in conjunction with the above, the composition may be rectally delivered to the mammal, for example by way of an enema
10 formulation or a suppository.

 Preferably an enema formulation contains:

15 i) 0.01 to 300 percentage weight per volume (%w/v) component a); and

 ii) any one or more of

 0.01 to 10%w/v Dioctyl sulphosuccinate salt, preferably Dioctyl sodium sulphosuccinate;

20 0.01 to 10%w/v

Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC);

 0.001 to 10%w/v Methyl paraben;

 0.001 to 10%w/v

25 Tris(hydroxymethyl)methylamine;

 0.001 to 10%w/v Citric acid monohydrate; and

 iii) the balance being water, preferably deionised
30 water.

 Preferably a suppository contains:

35 i) 0.01 to 300mg component a); and

 ii) any one or more of

 0.1 to 999.99mg cocoa butter, gelatin, glycerin and/or hydrogenated vegetable oils; and

40 iii) the balance being water, preferably deionised water

all weights being per 1000mg composition.

45 According to a further aspect to the present invention, there is provided the use of one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically

acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal, said use comprising releasing a therapeutically effective amount of the vanilloid compound(s), pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

According to a further aspect to the present invention, there is provided the use of one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal, wherein the one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof are released in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

A further aspect to the present invention provides a method of treating the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof, a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising

i) one or more vanilloid compounds,
pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues
and/or derivatives thereof (component a); and
5 ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle
(component b),
wherein component b) is selected to enable
component a) to be released in the
10 gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the
rectum of the mammal.

15 A further aspect to the present invention
provides a process for the manufacture of a
composition according to the invention, the
process including the steps of mixing component a)
20 with component b).

It will be appreciated that the compositions
may be prepared by any method known in the art of
25 pharmacy, for example by bringing into association
component a) with component b), and excipient(s)
and/or diluents when present.

30 Each of the materials described in this
specification are commercially available from
various sources.

The following examples illustrate compositions according to the invention.

5 Example 1 - Hard gelatin capsule

The capsule contains:

Capsaicin 10 mg

Gelucire (TM of Gattefosse) 53/10 90 mg

10 The ingredients are melted by heating to
around 65°-75°C and the capsule is filled with a
100mg amount of the melt, which is then allowed to
15 solidify. The capsules are coated with an enteric
coating to provide release in the intestine.

20 Gelucire (TM of Gattefosse) consists of mixtures of polyalcohol glycerol and fatty acid esters and the capsaicin is thus dispersed in this lipophilic material.

Example 2 - Bioadhesive granule

Each capsule contains 10mg of capsaicin in granular form. The granules are formed of the following ingredients (the weight given for each ingredient being that required to provide sufficient granules to achieve the desired dosage per capsule):

Capsaicin 10 mg

35	Carbopol 947P (TM of Goodrich)	80 mg
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Calcium carbonate	80 mg
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Microcrystalline cellulose 200mg

Sodium bicarbonate 15 mg

40 The carbopol, calcium carbonate and
microcrystalline cellulose in the form of dry
powders are mixed in a high speed food processor.
The capsaicin is dissolved in isopropanol and
45 mixed with the resulting powder mixture. The
solvent is then dried off at 20°C, sodium

bicarbonate is added in powder form and mixed with the dry mass. The resulting mixture is granulated with water and dried at 40°C in a fluid bed drier to a moisture content of less than 5%w/w. The granules are filled into size one hard gelatin capsules which are then coated with enteric coating polymer.

Example 3 - Enteric-coated Tablet

Capsaicin	10mg
Microcrystalline Cellulose	172mg
Lactose	85mg
Croscarmellose Sodium	30mg
Magnesium Stearate	3mg

The ingredients are blended and compressed directly into tablets. The tablets are coated with an enteric coating to ensure that capsaicin is released after passing through the stomach. An example of such an enteric coating is Opadry Aqueous Enteric (manufactured by Colorcon).

Example 4 - Hard Gelatin Capsule

Capsaicin	10mg
Microcrystalline Cellulose	170mg
Lactose	85.5mg
Croscarmellose Sodium	30mg
Talc	3mg
Magnesium Stearate	1.5mg

The ingredients are blended and filled into hard gelatin capsules (for example, size 2). The capsules are then coated with an enteric coating, for example with Opadry Aqueous Enteric.

Example 5 - Extrusion Spheronised Pellets in a
Hard Gelatin Capsule

	Capsaicin	10mg
5	Microcrystalline Cellulose	130mg
	Lactose	130mg
	Croscarmellose Sodium	15mg

10 The powders are blended together and then wet
massed in a high-shear mixer/granulator. The mass
is extruded through a screen (for example, 1mm)
and then spheronised. The spheroids are dried in
15 a fluid-bed dryer and then coated with an enteric
coat, for example Opadry Aqueous Enteric. The
coated spheroids are filled into hard gelatin
capsules (for example, size 2).

20 Example 6 - Hard gelatin capsule

The capsule contains:

	Resiniferatoxin	10 mg
25	Gelucire (TM of Gattefosse) 53/10	90 mg

30 The ingredients are melted by heating to
around 65°-75°C and the capsule is filled with a
100mg of the melt, which is then allowed to
solidify. The capsules are coated with an enteric
coating to provide release in the intestine.

35 Gelucire (TM of Gattefosse) consists of mixtures
of polyalcohol glycerol and fatty acid esters and
the capsaicin is thus dispersed in this lipophilic
material.

Example 7 - Foam enema

The enema formulation contains:

	Ingredient	%wt/v
5	Eugenol	0.15
	Diethyl sodium sulphosuccinate	1.0
	Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC)	1.3
	Methyl paraben	0.15
10	Tris(hydroxymethyl)methylamine	0.15
	Citric acid monohydrate	0.08
	Deionised water	to 100ml

15 The citric acid, tris and methyl paraben are dissolved in 50ml of deionised water and stirred. HPMC is added to this solution to give solution A. Diethyl sodium sulphosuccinate is dissolved
20 separately in 25ml deionised water and the eugenol added to the solution to give solution B. Solutions A and B are carefully mixed to avoid
25 foaming and made to up to 100ml with deionised water.

Example 8 - Suppository

Each suppository contains:

30	Capsaicin	10 mg
	Gelatin	200 mg
	Glycerin	700 mg
35	Deionised water:	90 mg

40 The amounts illustrated above are understood to be per suppository and should therefore be multiplied by the number of suppositories it is expected each production batch will yield.

45 The ingredients are mixed together and melted at between 60° and 70°C. The melted mass is poured into disposable moulds of plastic material in which the suppositories are cast and remain enclosed until removed by the patient.

Example 9 - Treatment of IBS in a human patient

5 A human patient suffering from one or more of the
following symptoms: diarrhoea, constipation,
abdominal pain, abdominal bloating, abdominal
distention, altered stool frequency, altered stool
10 form, altered stool passage or passage of mucus
(symptoms associated with Irritable Bowel Syndrome
(IBS) is administered a therapeutically effective
amount of the pharmaceutical composition according
15 to any of Examples 1 to 8 by either oral or rectal
administration, wherein the pharmaceutical
composition is administered with sufficient
frequency (one administration of the
20 pharmaceutical composition, or multiple
administrations of the pharmaceutical composition)
in order to alleviate one or more of the symptoms
in the said patient.

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CLAIMS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the
5 treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea,
constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or
abdominal distension in a mammal, the composition
10 comprising:
i) one or more vanilloid compounds,
pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues
and/or derivatives thereof (component a); and
15 ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle
(component b),
wherein component b) is selected to enable
component a) to be released in the
20 gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the
rectum of the mammal.
2. A composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein the
25 composition is an oral delivery composition and
the component b) releases component a) only after
the composition has passed through the stomach.
- 30 3. A composition as claimed in either one of claims 1
and 2 wherein component a) is selected from
capsaicin
35 ((E)-(N)-[(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-methyl]-8-me-
thyl-6-nonenamide); eugenol
(2-methoxy-4-(2-propenyl)phenol); zingerone
(4-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-butanone);
40 curcumin (1,7-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-
1,6-heptadiene-3,5-dione); piperine
(1-[5-(1,3-benzodioxol-5-yl)-1-oxo-2,4-pentadienyl
] piperidine); resiniferatoxin
45 (6,7-deepoxy-6,7-didehydro-5-deoxy-21-dephenyl-21-
(phenylmethyl)-20-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzeneaceta





te)) or pharmaceutically effective salts, analogues or derivatives or extracts or synthetic equivalents thereof.

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4. A composition as claimed in any one of the previous claims in unit dosage form as a tablet, a capsule, a gel, a powder, spheroids, granules or an osmotic delivery device.

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5. A composition as claimed in claim 4 wherein the unit dosage contains from 0.01 to 300mg, preferably 0.1 to 20mg of component a).

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6. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 2 to 5 wherein composition is enterically coated to provide release of component a) in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of a mammal.

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7. Use of one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and derivatives thereof in the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal, said use comprising releasing a therapeutically effective amount of the vanilloid compound(s) in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

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8. Use of one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and derivatives thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a

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mammal, wherein the vanilloid compound(s) are released in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

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9. A method of treating the treatment of irritable bowel syndrome, diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain and/or bloating or abdominal distension in a mammal, the method comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof, a pharmaceutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising

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i) one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and/or derivatives thereof; and

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ii) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, wherein the vehicle is selected to enable the vanilloid compound(s) to be released in the gastrointestinal tract between the stomach and the rectum of the mammal.

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10. A process for the manufacture of a composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, the process including the steps of mixing one or more vanilloid compounds, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, analogues and derivatives thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

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