~~What is claimed~~Claims:

1. A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration comprising:

a water soluble matrix comprising an effective amount of diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol ~~a pharmaceutically active agent~~ and an absorption enhancer having an HLB of ~~about~~ 8 to ~~about~~ 16;

wherein the matrix is a film and the absorption enhancer is one or more sucrose fatty acid esters ~~the pharmaceutically active agent is selected from the group consisting of diethylstilbestrol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol~~.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 wherein the pharmaceutical composition dissolves in the oral cavity in ~~about~~ 0.25 minutes to ~~about~~ 15 minutes.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the diethylstilbestrol is present in an amount of from ~~about~~ 0.1 mg to ~~about~~ 5 mg.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the pharmaceutical active agent is an agent for the treatment prostate or breast cancer in a patient and is present in an amount which is effective for treating prostate or breast cancer.

5. The pharmaceutical composition any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein said matrix contains an absorption enhancer or a combination of absorption enhancers in a total amount of from ~~about~~ 0.1% by weight to ~~about~~ 20% by weight by weight of the matrix.

~~6. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein the absorption enhancer is one or more sucrose fatty acid esters having a combined HLB of about 8 to about 16.~~

~~7.~~6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~6~~ 1 wherein the sucrose fatty acid esters are sucrose fatty acid esters having a monomer content of from ~~about~~ 20 percent to ~~about~~ 80 percent.

~~8.~~7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~ wherein said sucrose fatty acid ester is a C12 to C20 saturated fatty acid ester of sucrose.

~~9.~~8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6 ~~or claim 7~~ wherein the sucrose fatty acid esters are selected from the group consisting of sucrose stearate, sucrose palmitate, sucrose laurate, sucrose behenate, sucrose oleate and sucrose erucate.

~~10.~~9. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 6 to ~~9~~ 8 wherein said sucrose fatty acid ester is a sucrose stearate.

~~11. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 10 further comprising a nonionic surfactant wherein the combined nonionic surfactant and sucrose fatty acid ester have a combined HLB of about 8 to about 17.~~

~~12.~~10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~11~~9 wherein the nonionic surfactant is at least one or more of polysorbate and sorbitan fatty acid ester.

~~13.~~11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~12~~ 10 wherein the polysorbate is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monolaurate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monopalmitate, polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan and Polyoxyethylene (20) sorbitan monooleate.

~~14.~~12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~12~~ 10 or claim ~~13~~ 11 wherein the sorbitan fatty acid ester is selected from the group consisting of sorbitan monolaurate, sorbitan monopalmitate, sorbitan monostearate, sorbitan tristearate and sorbitan monooleate.

~~15.~~13. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to ~~14~~ 12 further comprising a secondary absorption enhancer selected from the group consisting of glycerol, ginger, oil, cineole and terpenes.

~~16.~~14. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to ~~15~~ 13 further comprising a film forming agent selected from pullulan or a polymeric mixture of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and a polymeric alginate.

~~17.~~15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~16~~ 14 wherein the film forming agent is pullulan.

~~18.~~16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~16~~ 14 wherein the ratio of polyvinyl pyrrolidone to polymeric alginate in the polymeric mixture is from ~~about~~ 5:1 to ~~about~~ 1:3.

~~19.~~17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~16~~ 14 or claim ~~17~~ 15 wherein the polymeric mixture contains, from ~~about~~ 5% to ~~about~~ 95% by weight of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and from ~~about~~ 5% to ~~about~~ 95% by weight of an polymeric alginate, both of said weights being based on the weight of said polymeric mixture.

~~20. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the matrix is a film.~~

~~21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 further comprising a polymeric mixture of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and a polymeric alginate.~~

~~22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 or claim 21 wherein the film when placed in the oral cavity will dissolve in about 0.25 minutes to about 15 minutes.~~

~~23. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 20 to 22 wherein the film has a thickness of about 0.01 mm to about 5 mm.~~

~~24. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 20 to 23 wherein said film has a surface area of from 0.25 cm^2 to 20 cm^2 and a weight of about 1 mg to about 200 mg.~~

~~25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24 wherein said film has a surface area of from 1 cm^2 to 10 cm^2 and a weight of about 10 mg to about 200 mg.~~

~~26. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 20 to 25 wherein said film contains one or more absorption enhancers in an amount of from about 0.1 % by weight to about 20% by weight of the film.~~

~~27. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 26 wherein said film contains a absorption enhancer in an amount of from about 1 % by weight to about 10% by weight of the film.~~

~~28. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the matrix is a tablet.~~

~~29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 28 wherein the tablet when placed in the oral cavity will dissolve in about 0.25 minutes to about 15 minutes.~~

~~30. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 28 to 29 wherein said tablet contains a absorption enhancer in an amount of from about 0.1% by weight to about 20% by weight of the tablet.~~

~~31. The pharmaceutical composition of any one of claims 1 to 19 wherein the matrix is a liquid.~~

~~32. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31 wherein said liquid contains a absorption enhancer in an amount of from about 0.1% by weight to about 10% by weight of the liquid.~~

~~33.~~18. A pharmaceutical composition for oral administration comprising: diethylstilbestrol or ~~Diethylstilbestrol and~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol for ~~use in the~~ treatment of prostate or breast cancer in a patient, comprising ~~administering an oral unit dosage form as~~

a water soluble matrix,

wherein

the matrix is a film and the ~~to the oral mucosal membranes of the mouth of a patient, which~~ matrix contains, dispersed therein, diethylstilbestrol ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol; ~~and~~

~~wherein~~ the diethylstilbestrol ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol are present in said matrix in an amount effective for treating said prostate or breast cancer;~~,~~

~~said~~ the matrix composed of one or more sucrose fatty acid esters having an HLB of ~~about~~ 8 to 16; and

the pharmaceutical composition provides high blood levels of diethylstilbestrol and low levels of fibrinogen.

~~34.~~19. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of claim ~~33~~18, further comprising a polymeric mixture of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and a polymeric alginate.

~~35.~~20. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of claim ~~34~~ 19 wherein the ratio of polyvinyl pyrrolidone to polymeric alginate in the polymeric mixture is from ~~about~~ 5:1 to ~~about~~ 1:3.

~~36.~~21. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use, compound for use and use~~ of claim ~~34~~ 19 wherein the polymeric mixture contains, from ~~about~~ 5% to ~~about~~ 95% by weight of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and from ~~about~~ 5% to ~~about~~ 95% by weight of an polymeric alginate, both of said weights being based on the weight of said polymeric mixture.

~~37.~~22. The pharmaceutical composition~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~36~~ 21 wherein the diethylstilbestrol ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol is present in an amount of ~~about~~ 0.1 to ~~about~~ 5 mg.

~~38.~~23. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~37~~ 22 wherein said matrix is placed under the tongue of said patient.

~~39.~~24. The pharmaceutical composition~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~37~~ 22 wherein said matrix is inserted on the buccal tissue of the mouth of the patient.

~~40.~~25. The pharmaceutical composition~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~39~~ 24 wherein the sucrose fatty acid ester has a monomer content of from ~~about~~ 20 percent to ~~about~~ 80 percent.

~~41.~~26. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~40~~ 25 wherein the sucrose fatty acid esters are selected from the group consisting of sucrose stearate, sucrose palmitate, sucrose laurate, sucrose behenate, sucrose oleate and sucrose erucate.

~~42.~~27. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~41~~ 26 wherein said absorption enhancer is present in an amount of from ~~about~~ 1% to ~~about~~ 20% based upon the weight of the film.

~~43. The compound for use of any one of claims 33 to 42 further comprising a nonionic surfactant wherein the combined nonionic surfactant and sucrose fatty acid ester have a combined HLB of about 8 to about 17.~~

~~44.~~28. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~43~~ 27 further comprising a secondary absorption enhancer selected from the group consisting of glycerol, tween, span, ginger oil, cineole and terpenes.

~~45. The compound for use of any one of claims 33 to 44 wherein the matrix is a film.~~

~~46. The compound for use of any one of claims 33 to 45 wherein the matrix is a tablet.~~

~~47. The compound for use of any one of claims 33 to 35 wherein the matrix is a liquid.~~

~~48.~~29. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~47~~ 28 further comprising pullulan as a film forming agent.

~~49.~~30. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of any one of claims ~~33~~ 18 to ~~48~~ 29 wherein diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol ~~the active agent~~ is released over a period of time from ~~about~~ 0.25 minutes to ~~about~~ 15 minutes.

~~50.~~31. The pharmaceutical composition ~~compound for use~~ of claim ~~49~~30 wherein diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol ~~the active agent~~ is released over a period of time from ~~about~~ 0.5 minutes to ~~about~~ 10 minutes.

~~51.~~32. Use of diethylstilbestrol ~~and~~ or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol dispersed in a matrix and an absorption enhancer having an HLB of 8 to 16; wherein the matrix is a film and the absorption enhancer is one or more sucrose fatty acid esters, for the manufacture of a ~~medicament~~ pharmaceutical composition for oral administration for

treatment of prostate or breast cancer in a patient~~, comprising administering an oral unit dosage form as a water soluble matrix to the oral mucosal membranes of the mouth of a patient, which matrix contains, dispersed therein, diethylstilbestrol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol and wherein the diethylstilbestrol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol are present in said matrix in an amount effective for treating said prostate or breast cancer, said matrix composed of one or more sucrose fatty acid esters having an HLB of about 8 to 16~~.

~~52. The use of claim 51 further comprising a polymeric mixture of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and a polymeric alginate.~~

~~53. The use of claim 52 wherein the ratio of polyvinyl pyrrolidone to polymeric alginate in the polymeric mixture is from about 5:1 to about 1:3.~~

~~54. The use of claim 52 wherein the polymeric mixture contains, from about 5% to about 95% by weight of polyvinyl pyrrolidone and from about 5% to about 95% by weight of an polymeric alginate, both of said weights being based on the weight of said polymeric mixture.~~

~~55. The use of any one of claims 51 to 54 wherein the diethylstilbestrol and pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol is present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 5 mg.~~

~~56. The use of any one of claims 51 to 55 wherein said matrix is placed under the tongue of said patient.~~

~~57. The use of any one of claims 51 to 55 wherein said matrix is inserted on the buccal tissue of the mouth of the patient.~~

~~58. The use of any one of claims 51 to 57 wherein the sucrose fatty acid ester has a monomer content of from about 20 percent to about 80 percent.~~

~~59. The use of any one of claims 51 to 58 wherein the sucrose fatty acid esters are selected from the group consisting of sucrose stearate, sucrose palmitate, sucrose laurate, sucrose behenate, sucrose oleate and sucrose erucate.~~

~~60. The use of any one of claims 51 to 59 wherein said absorption enhancer is present in an amount of from about 1% to about 20% based upon the weight of the film.~~

~~61. The use of any one of claims 51 to 60 further comprising a nonionic surfactant wherein the combined nonionic surfactant and sucrose fatty acid ester have a combined HLB of about 8 to about 17.~~

~~62. The use of any one of claims 51 to 61 further comprising a secondary absorption enhancer selected from the group consisting of glycerol, tween, span, ginger oil, cineole and terpenes.~~

~~63. The use of any one of claims 51 to 62 wherein the matrix is a film.~~

~~64. The use of any one of claims 51 to 62 wherein the matrix is a tablet.~~

~~65. The use of any one of claims 51 to 62 wherein the matrix is a liquid.~~

~~66. The use of any one of claims 51 to 65 further comprising pullulan as a film forming agent.~~

~~67. The use of any one of claims 51 to 66 wherein the active agent is released over a period of time from about 0.25 minutes to about 15 minutes.~~

~~68. The use of claim 67 wherein the active agent is released over a period of time from about 0.5 minutes to about 10 minutes.~~

33. The use according to claim 32, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is as defined in any one of claims 2-3, and 5-17.

34. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 1-3 and 5-17, in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of prostate or breast cancer in a patient.

35. Use of diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for oral application for treatment of prostate or breast cancer in a patient, wherein

the matrix is a film and the matrix contains, dispersed therein, diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol;

the diethylstilbestrol or pharmaceutically acceptable salts of diethylstilbestrol are present in said matrix in an amount effective for treating said prostate or breast cancer;

the matrix composed of one or more sucrose fatty acid esters having an HLB of 8 to 16; and

the pharmaceutical composition provides high blood levels of diethylstilbestrol and low levels of fibrinogen.

36. The use according to claim 35, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is as defined in any one of claims 19-31.

37. Use of the pharmaceutical composition according to any one of claims 18-31 in the preparation of a medicament for treatment of prostate or breast cancer in a patient.