CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition in the form of an orally disintegrating tablet comprising:

a. a topically acting corticosteroid or pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or polymorph adsorbed onto a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; and

b. rapidly dispersing microgranules comprising a sugar alcohol, or a saccharide, or a mixture thereof and at least one disintegrant, wherein the sugar alcohol or saccharide and the disintegrant are present in a ratio of sugar alcohol or saccharide to disintegrant of from 90:10 to 99:1

wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 5% or less by weight in the composition.

2. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the orally disintegrating tablet disintegrates within 30 seconds when tested using the USP <701> method for disintegration time.

3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the orally disintegrating tablet disintegrates within 60 seconds on contact with saliva in the oral cavity of a patient in need thereof.

4. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is selected from the group consisting of microcrystalline cellulose, silicified microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, corn starch, colloidal silica, and amorphous magnesium aluminum silicate.

5. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein said corticosteroid is selected from the group consisting of budesonide, fluticasone, flunisolide, ciclesonide, mometasone, beclomethasone, and salts, solvates, esters, and mixtures thereof.

6. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein said corticosteroid is fluticasone.

7. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 6, wherein said corticosteroid is fluticasone propionate.

8. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 3% or less by weight in the composition.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 1.5% or less by weight in the composition.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 1% or less by weight in the composition.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 0.5% or less by weight in the composition.

12. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 4.5 mg in the composition.

13. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 3 mg in the composition.

14. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 1.5 mg in the composition.

15. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is present in an amount of about 6 mg in the composition.

16. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is fluticasone propionate in the range of 0.05 to about 15 mg in the composition at a drug content of from about 0.16% to 5% by weight of the composition.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is fluticasone propionate in the range of 0.75 to about 4.5 mg in the composition at a drug content of from about 0.25% to 1.5% by weight in the composition.

18. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is fluticasone propionate in the range of 0.05 to about 18 mg in the composition at a drug content of from about 0.125% to 5% by weight in the composition.

19. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is micronized with a particle size of not more than 50 microns.

20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, wherein the corticosteroid has a mean particle size of not more than about 10 microns.

21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising an adhesive agent.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, wherein the adhesive agent is selected from the group consisting of sucrose aluminum sulfate complex, chitosan and derivatives thereof, polyvinylpyrrolidone, methylcellulose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, hydroxyethyl ethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, cross-linked polyacrylic acid, cross-linked polyacrylates, aminoalkyl methacrylate copolymers, carbopol polymers, hydrophilic

polysaccharide gums, maltodextrins, pectins, xanthan gums, alginic acid, modified alginic acids, and combinations thereof.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the disintegrant is selected from the group consisting of crospovidone, sodium starch glycolate, crosslinked carboxymethyl cellulose, and low-substituted hydroxylpropylcellulose.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the sugar alcohol or saccharide is selected from the group consisting of sucralose, lactose, sucrose, maltose, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, maltitol, and mixtures thereof.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a free flowing sugar alcohol or saccharide selected from the group consisting of spray-dried mannitol, spray-dried lactose, and combinations thereof.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising a lubricant selected from the group consisting of magnesium stearate, stearic acid, sodium stearyl fumarate, glyceryl behenate, and a mixture thereof.

27. The solid pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one antifungal agent.

28. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one antiviral agent.

29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the rapidly dispersing microgranules further comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable additive with multifunctional activity.

30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29, wherein the additive with multi-functional activity is selected from the group consisting of pregelatinized starch and hydroxypropylcellulose.

31. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid has an average particle size of less than about 10 μm, the rapidly dispersing microgranules have an average particle size of less than about 300 μm, and the sugar alcohol and/or saccharide has an average particle size of less than about 30 μm.

32. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31, wherein the corticosteroid is fluticasone propionate with a particle size of less than 5 microns, the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is silicified microcrystalline cellulose, the rapidly dispersing microgranules comprise mannitol and

crospovidone, and the composition further comprises a free-flowing sugar alcohol which is spray-dried mannitol, and a lubricant which is sodium stearyl fumarate.

33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 1, wherein the corticosteroid is micronized.

34. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33, wherein the corticosteroid has a mean particle size of less than about 10 μm.