CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions for treating kidney diseases associated with the activation of the HB-EGF/EGF receptor pathway, comprising a combination of a corticosteroid agent and an inhibitor of Heparin-Binding Epidermal Growth Factor-like growth factor (HB-EGF) chosen from anti-HB-EGF antibodies and diphtheria toxin-derived HB-EGF ligands.

1. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 1, wherein the HB-EGF inhibitor is a recombinant protein comprising an isolated R domain of the diphtheria toxin comprising at least the substitutions selected from the group consisting of: L390T and Y380K; L390T and Y380E; Y380K and Q387E**;** Y380E and Q387K relative to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 2, wherein the recombinant protein comprises the substitutions Y380K, Q387E, L390T, A395T, F389Y, G510A, N399K, V452T, T517E, V483Q, H492E and S494K relative to SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to claim 3, wherein the recombinant protein comprises the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.

4. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the corticosteroid agent is selected from the group consisting of: prednisolone, betamethasone, prednisone, triamcinolone, methylprednisolone, dexamethasone, and mixtures thereof

6. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said diseases are selected from the group consisting of: Crescentic glomerulonephritis (CGN), Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), Renal interstitial fibrosis (IF), Chronic kidney disease (CKD), and Hypertensive Arteriolar Nephrosclerosis (HTN).

7. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 6, which is for treating an acute phase or relapse of said diseases.

8. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said diseases are Crescentic glomerulonephritis (CGN) or Focal and segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS).

9. The pharmaceutical composition or combination of pharmaceutical compositions according to any one of claims 1 to 8, which reduces the severity of the glomerular lesions and/or reduces the degradation of kidney function.

10. Use of combined drugs comprising a corticosteroid agent and an inhibitor of Heparin-Binding Epidermal Growth Factor-like growth factor (HB-EGF) chosen from anti-HB-EGF antibodies and diphtheria toxin-derived HB-EGF ligands as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5 in the manufacture of a medicament for treatment of kidney diseases involving the activation of the HB-EGF/EGFR pathway as defined in any one of claims 1 and 6 to 8.

11. The use according to claim 10, which comprises the administration of a reduced dose of corticosteroid agent consisting of less than 1 mg/kg per day or less than 80 mg per day.

12. The use according to claim 10 or 11, which comprises the administration of a dose of HB-EGF inhibitor of 0.6 mg/kg per day.

13. The use according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein said corticosteroid agent and/or said HB-EGF inhibitor are administered every day for at least 3 weeks and/or at most 6 months.

14. The use according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein said corticosteroid agent and/or HB-EGF inhibitor are administered orally or by injection.

15. The use according to claim 14, wherein the injection is intravenous or subcutaneous injection.

16. A kit of parts comprising a corticosteroid agent and an inhibitor of Heparin-Binding Epidermal Growth Factor-like growth factor (HB-EGF) chosen from anti-HB-EGF antibodies and diphtheria toxin-derived HB-EGF ligands as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of kidney diseases associated with the activation of the HB-EGF/EGF receptor pathway as defined in any one of claims 1 and 6 to 8.