Since individual subjects may present a wide variation in severity of symptoms and each drug has its unique therapeutic characteristics, the precise mode of administration and dosage employed for each subject is left to the discretion of the practitioner. The patient will be administered the compound orally in any acceptable form, such as a tablet, liquid, capsule, powder and the like, or other routes may be desirable or necessary, particularly if the patient suffers from nausea. Such other routes may include, without exception, transdermal, parenteral, subcutaneous, intranasal, via an implant stent, intrathecal, intravitreal, topical to the eye, back of the eye, intramuscular, intravenous, and intrarectal modes of delivery. The actual amount of the compound to be administered in any given case will be determined by a physician taking into account the relevant circumstances, such as the severity of the condition, the age and weight of the patient, the patient's general physical condition, the cause of the condition, and the route of administration. Additionally, the formulations may be designed to delay release of the active compound over a given period of time, or to carefully control the amount of drug released at a given time during the course of therapy.

(S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol and its pharmaceutically-acceptable salts have extended alpha-2 adrenergic receptor agonist activity in lowering intraocular pressure and may be administered through different routes, including but not limited to topical eye drops, direct injection, application at the back of the eye or formulations that may further enhance the long duration of actions such as a slow releasing pellet, suspension, gel, or sustained delivery devices such as any suitable drug delivery system (DDS) known in the art.

While topical administration is preferred, this compound may also be used in an intraocular implant as described in U.S. Published Patent Application 20050244463. Such biocompatible intraocular implants include (S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol and a polymer associated with (S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol to facilitate release thereof into an eye for an extended period of time.

In a further aspect of the invention there is provided the use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (S) (3-(1 -(1 H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a condition selected from ischemic neuropathy, optic neuropathy, pain, visceral pain, corneal pain, headache pain, migraine, cancer pain, back pain, irritable bowel syndrome pain, muscle pain, pain associated with diabetic neuropathy, diabetic retinopathy, a retinal degenerative condition, stroke, cognitive deficit, a neuropsychiatric condition, drug dependence and addiction, a withdrawal symptom, an obsessive-compulsive disorder, obesity, insulin resistance, a stress-related condition, diarrhea, diuresis, nasal congestion, spasticity, attention deficit disorder, psychoses, anxiety, depression, autoimmune disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's ALS, a neurodegenerative disease, a dermatological condition, skin erythema (redness) and inflammation, rosacea and acne.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the exemplified embodiments, which are only intended as illustrations of specific aspects of the invention. Various

What is claimed is:

1. A method of lowering intraocular pressure which comprises administering topically a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, to the affected eye of a patient.

2. A method of lowering intraocular pressure which comprises administering topically a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, to the affected eye of a patient, as a single dose, wherein the affected eye has an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure for at least eight (8) hours.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the affected eye maintains an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure for at least ten (10) hours.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the affected eye maintains an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure for at least twelve (12) hours.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about about 0.01% to about 5 % by weight, (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01 % to about 2 % by weight, (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.05 % to about 1 % by weight, (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.001% to about 1% by weight of a preservative.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight of a preservative.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.001% to about 0.01% by weight of a preservative.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2 % by weight of a co-solvent.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of a viscosity building agent.

13. A method of lowering intraocular pressure of a patient in need thereof which comprises administering topically a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, to the affected eye of said patient, once or twice daily, wherein the affected eye maintains an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure, throughout the day.

14. The method according to claim 3 wherein said composition is administered once a day.

15. An article of manufacture comprising packaging material and a pharmaceutical agent contained within said packaging material, wherein the pharmaceutical agent is therapeutically effective for lowering intraocular pressure and wherein the packaging material comprises a label which indicates the pharmaceutical agent can be used for lowering intraocular pressure and wherein said pharmaceutical agent comprises an effective amount of (*S*) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol.

Claims

1. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising *(S)* (3-(1 -(1 H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a condition selected from ischemic neuropathy, optic neuropathy, pain, visceral pain, corneal pain, headache pain, migraine, cancer pain, back pain, irritable bowel syndrome pain, muscle pain, pain associated with diabetic neuropathy, diabetic retinopathy, a retinal degenerative condition, stroke, cognitive deficit, a neuropsychiatric condition, drug dependence and addiction, a withdrawal symptom, an obsessive-compulsive disorder, obesity, insulin resistance, a stress-related condition, diarrhea, diuresis, nasal congestion, spasticity, attention deficit disorder, psychoses, anxiety, depression, autoimmune disease, Crohn's disease, gastritis, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's ALS, a neurodegenerative disease, a dermatological condition, skin erythema (redness) and inflammation, rosacea and acne.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.001% to about 1% by weight of a preservative.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight of a preservative.

4. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of a co-solvent.

5. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of a viscosity-building agent.