CLAIMS

1. 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts for use as glucocorticoid-sparing agent in the prophylaxis or treatment of conditions usually treated with glucocorticoids.

2. 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts for use as glucocorticoid-sparing agent according to claim 1 characterized in that 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione sodium salt is used.

3. 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts for use as glucocorticoid-sparing agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein unwanted glucocorticoid effects are reduced or avoided.

4. Pharmaceutical combination comprising 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts and at least one glucocorticoid for use as defined in any one of claims 1 – 3 in the prophylaxis or treatment of conditions or diseases usually treated with glucocorticoids.

5. Pharmaceutical combination according to claim 4 wherein the glucocorticoid is selected from a group comprising glucocorticoids, flumethasone, triamcinolone acetonide, betamethasone, deflazacort, dexamethasone, beclomethasone, betamethasone valerate, betamethasone dipropionate, budesonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, isoflupredone, fluocinonide, fluocinolone, prednisone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone, halcinonide, desonide, deltasone, triamcinolone, triamcinolone acetonide, tixocortol pivalate, mometasone, amcinonide, fluocortolone, halometasone, alclometasone dipropionate, prednicarbate, clobetasone-17-butyrate, clobetasol-17-propionate, fluocortolone caproate, fluocortolone pivalate, fluprednidene acetate, ciclesonide, flunisolide, fluticasone furoate, fluticasone propionate, cortisol, hydrocortisone, hydrocortisone acetate, hydrocortisone-17-valerate, hydrocortisone-17-butyrate, hydrocortisone-17-aceponate, hydrocortisone-17-buteprate, cortisone and cortisone acetate.

6. Pharmaceutical combination according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the condition or disease is selected from a group comprising autoimmune disorders, allergies, cancers, adverse reactions associated to cancer therapies, muscular dystrophies, severe infectious diseases, systemic inflammatory diseases as well as inflammatory diseases of skin, respiratory system, gastrointestinal tract, urogenital system, cardiovascular system, musculoskeletal system, nervous system and sensory organs, and further conditions, such as cerebral edema, shock; sarcoidosis, hypercalcemia, adrenal insufficiency, adrenogenital syndrome, and acute mountain sickness; and to prevent transplant rejection.

7. Pharmaceutical combination according to any of claims 4 to 6, wherein the unwanted glucocorticoid effects to be reduced or avoided are selected from a group comprising hypertonia, weight gain, obesity, truncal obesity, corticosteroid-induced lipodystrophy, edema, puffiness of the face, potassium loss, muscle weakness, headache, facial hair growth in women, thinning of the skin, easy bruising, slow wound healing, glaucoma, cataracts, stomach and duodenum ulcers, acne, irregular menstrual cycle, steroid induced diabetes, loss of control in existing diabetes, osteoporosis, adrenal joint necrosis, psychiatric disturbances, psychotic behavior, growth retardation in children, convulsions, increased rate of infections, exacerbation of opportunistic infections, reduced effectiveness of antibiotics and vaccines, and Cushing's syndrome.

8. Pharmaceutical combination according to any of claims 4 to 7, wherein the glucocorticoid exhibits additionally mineralocorticoid potency.

9. Pharmaceutical combination according to any of claims 4 to 8, wherein 5-amino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-phthalazinedione or one of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts is either administered as add-on to the at least one glucocorticoid or within the same pharmaceutical composition with the at least one glucocorticoid.

10. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, wherein the administration mode for the composition is selected from intravenous, oral, sublingual, rectal, topical and dermal administration.

11. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 for oral application, wherein a dosage form is selected from tablets, soft gelatin capsules, hard gelatin capsules, sugar-coated tablets or pills; powders or granulates; juices, syrups, drops, teas, solutions or suspensions in aqueous or non-aqueous liquids; edible foams or mousses; or in oil-in-water or water-in-oil in emulsions.

12. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 for inhalatory application.

13. Pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 for topical application, wherein a dosage form is selected from creams, emulsions, lotions, gels, hydrogels, pastes, powders, ointments, liniment, films, liposomes, dermal patches, transdermal patches, transdermal sprays or suspensions.

14. ~~A method of treatment comprising the administration of an effective dose of a pharmaceutical combination defined in any of claims 4 to 6 in the prophylaxis and/or treatment of conditions or diseases usually treated with glucocorticoids in a patient in need thereof.~~The use of an effective dose of a pharmaceutical combination defined in any of claims 4 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of conditions or diseases usually treated with glucocorticoids in a patient in need thereof.

15. ~~A method of treatment comprising the administration of an effective dose of a pharmaceutical combination defined in any of claims 4, 5 and 7 for reducing or avoiding unwanted glucocorticoid effects in conditions or diseases usually treated with glucocorticoids in a patient in need thereof.~~The use of an effective dose of a pharmaceutical combination defined in any of claims 4, 5 and 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing or avoiding unwanted glucocorticoid effects in conditions or diseases usually treated with glucocorticoids in a patient in need thereof.