CLAIMS

1. Use of a substance in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the permeability of an endothelial layer of a blood vessel in a subject, wherein the substance is to be provided to the endothelial layer and reduces the ratio of Angiopoietin-2 to Angiopoietin-1 at the site of increased permeability as a result of an infection.

2. The use according to claim 1, for reducing the gas diffusion distance between lung-alveoli and the vascular network surrounding alveoli in a human subject suffering from a respiratory infection.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the substance comprises an AQGV peptide, an LQGV peptide, or a functional analogue of either.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the infection is a viral infection.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the viral infection is caused by a virus requiring a specific receptor and a more ubiquitous binding partner present on at least a percentage of lung alveolar cells.

6. The use according to claim 5, wherein the specific receptor is ACE-2.

7. The use according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the more ubiquitous binding partner is a glycoprotein comprising a sialic acid residue.

8. The use according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the virus is a coronavirus.

9. The use according to claim 8, wherein the coronavirus is COVID-19 or a mutant thereof.

10. The use according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the substance is to be administered intravenously, preferably at a rate of at least 75mg/kg/hr, or more preferably at least 90 mg/kg/hr.

11. The use according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the substance is to be administered intermittently.

12. The use according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the subject is to be monitored for haemodynamic stability.

13. The use according to any one of the previous claims, wherein an antiviral agent is to be further administered to the subject.

14. A pharmaceutical formulation for use according to any one of the previous claims.

15. A pharmaceutical formulation for use according to claim 14, comprising an AQGV peptide, or a functional analogue thereof and an excipient suitable for parenteral administration.