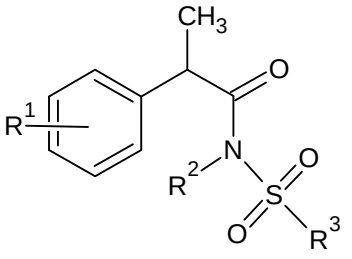
CLAIMS

1. A combination of (i) a CXCL8 activity inhibitor, a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid or base, or a prodrug thereof, and (ii) a corticosteroid, a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid or base, or a prodrug thereof.

2. The combination as claimed in claim 1, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor inhibits the activity of CXCL8 mediated by CXCR1 receptor or mediated by both CXCR1 and CXCR2 receptors.

3. The combination as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is a small molecule, an antibody or a peptide.

4. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 is selected from linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzoyl, phenoxy, and trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy;

R^2 is selected from hydrogen atom and linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl; and

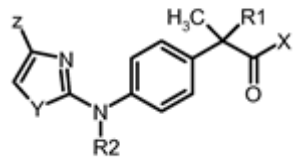
R^3 is a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is selected from:

- 2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionyl methansulfonamide, preferably R-(-)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionyl methansulfonamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, preferably the lysine salt thereof, and
- 2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenyl]-N-methanesulfonyl propionamide, preferably R(-)-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenyl]-N-methanesulfonyl propionamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, in particular the sodium salt thereof.

6. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is a compound of formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

R1 is hydrogen;

X is OH;

R2 is hydrogen or linear C1-C4 alkyl,

Y is a heteroatom selected from S, O and N,

Z is selected from linear or branched C1-C4 alkyl, linear or branched C1-C4 alkoxy, halo C1-C3 alkyl and halo C1-C3 alkoxy,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The combination as claimed in claim 6, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is 2-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]amino}phenyl)propanoic acid, preferably (2S)-2-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl] amino} phenyl) propanoic acid or the sodium salt thereof.

8. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein said corticosteroid is a glucocorticoid selected from amcinonide, beclomethasone dipropionate, betamethasone, betamethasone acetate, betamethasone benzoate, betamethasone di propionate, betamethasone sodium phosphate, betamethasone valerate, budesonide, carbenoxolone sodium, clocortolone acetate, clocortolone pivalate, cloprednol, corticotropin (injection), corticotropin (repository), corticotropin zinc hydroxide, cortisone acetate, cortivazole, descinolone acetonide, dexamethasone, dexamethasone sodium phosphate, diflucortolone, diflucortolone pivalate, flucloronide, flumethasone, flumethasone pivalate, flunisolide, fluocinolone acetonide, fluocinomide, fluocortolone, fluocortolone caproate, fluorometholone, fluperolone acetate, fluprednisolone, fluprednisolone valerate, flurandrenolide, formocortal, fluticasone, hydrocortisone, hydrocortisone acetate, hydrocortisone buteprate, hydrocortisone butyrate, hydrocortisone cypionate, hydrocortisone sodium phosphate, hydrocortisone sodium succinate, hydrocortisone valerate, medrysone, methylprednisolone, methylprednisolone acetate, methylprednisolone sodium phosphate, methylprednisolone sodium succinate, nivazole, paramethasone acetate, prednicarbate, prednisolone, prednisilone acetate,

prednisolone hemisuccinate, prednisoline sodium phosphate, prednisolone sodium succinate, prednisiline tebutate, prednisone, prednival, ticabesone propionate, tralonide, triamcinolone, triamcinolone acetonide, triamcinolone acetonide sodium phosphate, triamcinolone diacetate and triamcinolone hexacetonide.

9. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said glucocorticoid is selected from dexamethasone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone, and prednisone, a salt thereof with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid or base, or a prodrug thereof.

10. The combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said CXCL8 activity inhibitor is R(-)-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenyl]-N-methanesulfonyl propionamide or (2S)-2-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl] amino} phenyl) propanoic acid or the sodium salt, preferably as sodium salt, and said corticosteroid is dexamethasone.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10, and at least one inert pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

12. Use of a combination as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 or a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 11, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of corticosteroid-insensitive asthma.

13. The use as claimed in claim 12, wherein said asthma is an asthma characterized by a less than 15% improvement in baseline FEV1 after 14 days course of oral prednisolone (40 mg/day) in patients who demonstrate more than 15% improvement in FEV1 following treatment of inhaled β2 agonist.