CLAIMS

1. Use of a sustained release composition in manufacture of a medicament for treating arthritis, the sustained release composition comprising:

a lipid cake comprising a mixture of a first phospholipid and a second phospholipid, and cholesterol, wherein the first phospholipid is 1,2-dioleoyl-snglycero-3-phosphatidylcholine (DOPC), l-palmitoyl-2-oleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphatidylcholine (POPC), soy phosphatidylcholine (SPC), or egg phosphatidylcholine (EPC), the second phospholipid is dioleoylphosphatidylglycerol (DOPG), and the cholesterol is present in an amount of 10 to 33 mole percent relative to the lipid cake; and

one or more therapeutic agents,

wherein the medicament is suitable for administration via intraarticular injection.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the sustained release composition is prepared by reconstituting the lipid cake that is lyophilized with an aqueous solution comprising said one or more therapeutic agents to form an aqueous suspension.

3. The use of claim 1, wherein the sustained release composition is prepared by reconstituting a lyophilized combination of said one or more therapeutic agents and the lipid cake with an aqueous solution to form an aqueous suspension.

4. The use of claim 1, wherein the mole percent of DOPC:DOPG:cholesterol is 29.5 to 90: 3

to 37.5:10 to 33 based on the total amount of the phospholipids and cholesterol.

5. The use of claim 1, wherein the mole percent of DOPC:DOPG:cholesterol is 56.25 to 72.5: 7.5 to 18.75 : 20 to 25 based on the total amount of the phospholipids and cholesterol.

6. The use of claim 1, wherein the one or more therapeutic agents comprise a water soluble steroid solution comprising an effective amount of a water soluble steroid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. The use of claim 6, wherein the water soluble steroid is dexamethasone sodium phosphate.

8. The use of claim 6, wherein the water soluble steroid solution has a potency equivalent to a 2 mg dose to a 8 mg dose of dexamethasone.

9. The use of claim 1, wherein the one or more therapeutic agents comprise a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. The use of claim 9, wherein the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug is indomethacin.

11. The use of claim 10, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of indomethacin is indomethacin sodium.

12. The use of claim 10, wherein the dose of the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt is 4.65 to 5 mg/ml.

13. The use of claim 1, wherein the one or more therapeutic agents comprise a disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD).

14. The use of claim 13, wherein the DMARD comprises a TNF-*a* antagonist.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the TNF-*a* antagonist is etanercept.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the dose of etanercept is 42.8mg/ml to 50mg/ml.

17. The use of claim 14, wherein the TNF-*a* antagonist is adalimumab.

18. The use of claim 13, wherein the DMARD comprises methotrexate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. The use of claim 18, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of methotrexate is methotrexate sodium.

20. The use of claim 18, wherein the dose of methotrexate or its pharmaceutically acceptable salt is 2.3 to 2.5mg/ml.

21. The use of claim 1, wherein the one or more therapeutic agents are encapsulated in an aqueous medium of a liposome.