CLAIMS

1. An isolated preparation of a microorganism which comprises or consists of *Lactobacillus plantarum GOS 42* (DSM 32131), for use in medicine.

2. The isolated preparation for use as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the microorganism is present as vegetative cells and/or spores.

3. The isolated preparation for use as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, wherein the microorganism is attenuated or dead.

4. A composition comprising *Lactobacillus plantarum GOS 42* (DSM 32131) and a carrier, excipient and/or diluent.

5. The composition as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the composition is a pharmaceutical composition.

6. The composition, as claimed in Claim 4 or 5, wherein the total amount of the microorganism is in the range from 0.01 to 100 % with respect to the total weight of the composition, and/or wherein the total amount of the microorganism is in the range from 1×10^3 to 1×10^{11} colony forming units (CFU).

7. The composition as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the total amount of microorganism is in the range of from 0.1 to 50% with respect to the total weight of the composition; and/or the total amount of the microorganism is in the range of from 1×10^5 to 1×10^{10} CFU.

8. The composition as claimed in Claim 7 wherein the total amount of the microorganism is in the range of from 1 to 10% with respect to the total weight of the composition; and/or wherein the total amount of the microorganism is in the range of from 1×10^8 to 1×10^9 CFU.

9. The composition according to any of Claims 4 to 8, wherein the composition is coated or encapsulated.

10. The composition according to any one of Claims 4 to 9, wherein the composition is in the form of a solution, suspension, emulsion, tablet, granule, powder or capsule.

11. The composition according to any one of Claims 4 to 10, wherein the composition is selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, tooth gel, tooth powder, tooth cleaning liquid, tooth cleaning foam, mouth wash, mouth spray, dental floss, chewing gum and lozenge.

12. The composition as claimed in any one of Claims 4 to 11 wherein the composition comprises an animal food and/or drink component.

13. A composition according to any one of Claims 4 to 12, for use in medicine.

14. The isolated preparation for use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, or the composition for use as claimed in Claim 13 wherein the use in medicine is in the treatment and/or prevention of inflammation.

15. The isolated preparation for use as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3 or 14, or the composition as claimed in Claim 13 or 14 wherein the use in medicine is for reducing and/or inhibiting the release of one or more inflammatory factors selected from the group consisting of interleukin 1 (IL-1), interleukin 6 (IL-6), interleukin 8 (IL-8), tumor necrosis factor (TNF), prostaglandin E2 (PGE2), isoprostanes, matrix metallopeptidase 9 (MMP9) and NF-κB.