WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of reducing the annual exacerbation rate of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein the administration reduces the patient's exacerbation rate. .

2. A method of treating asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein the patient has a blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl prior to the administration.

3. A method of treating asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein the patient has a forced expiratory volume (FEV_1) of at least 75% predicted value prior to the administration.

4. A method of treating asthma, comprising administering at least two doses of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof to an asthma patient.

5. The method of any one of claims 2-4, wherein the administration reduces the patient's exacerbation rate.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the administration reduces the patient's annual exacerbation rate.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 or 3-6, wherein the asthma is eosinophilic asthma.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 or 3-7, wherein the patient has a blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl.

9. The method of any one of claims 1, 2, or 4-8, wherein, the patient has a forced expiratory volume (FEV_1) of at least 75% predicted value prior to the administration.

10. The method of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the patient has an asthma control questionnaire score of at least 1.5 prior to the administration.

11. The method of any one of claims 1-3 or 5-10, wherein at least two doses of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof are administered to the patient

12. The method of any one of claims 1 or 6-11, which reduces the annual exacerbations rate following administration of the antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

13. The method of any one of claims 1 or 6-12, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 35%.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 40%.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 50%.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 60%.

17. The method of any one of claims 1-16, wherein the patient uses high-dose inhaled corticosteroids (ICS).

18. The method of any one of claims 1-17, wherein the patient uses long-acting β2 agonists (LABA).

19. The method of any one of claims 1-18, wherein the patient has a history of exacerbations.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the history of exacerbations comprises at least two exacerbations in the year prior to the administration of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

21. The method of claim 19 or 20, wherein the history of exacerbations comprises no more than six exacerbations in the year prior to the administration of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

22. The method of any one of claims 1-21, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at about 2 mg to about 100 mg per dose.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at about 20 mg per dose.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at about 30 mg per dose.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered at about 100 mg per dose.

26. The method of any one of claims 1-25, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks to once every twelve weeks.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every eight weeks.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

30. The method of any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered parenterally.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered subcutaneously.

32. The method of any one of claims 1 to 31, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered in addition to corticosteroid therapy.

33. A method of reducing the annual exacerbation rate of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient 20-100 mg of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, wherein the patient has an blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl prior to the administration.

34. The method of claim 33, comprising administering 20 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

36. The method of claim 33, comprising administering 30 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks for eight weeks and then once every eight weeks.

38. The method of claim 36, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks.

39. The method of claim 33, comprising administering 100 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment thereof is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

41. A method of treating asthma in an asthma patient, comprising administering to the patient a dose of at least 2 and less than 100 mg of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein 20 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment is administered.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein 30 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment is administered.

44. The method of claim 41, wherein a dose of at least 20 and less than 100 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment is administered.

45. The method of claim 41, wherein a dose of at least 30 and less than 100 mg of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment is administered.

46. The method of any one of claims 41-45, wherein administration of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment decreases exacerbation rates of asthma.

47. The method of any one of claims 41-46, wherein administration of the benralizumab or antigen-binding fragment decreases annual exacerbation rates of asthma.

48. The method of any one of claims 41-47, wherein the administration is subcutaneous.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the annual exacerbation rate of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of the medicament, wherein the administration reduces the patient's exacerbation rate. .

2. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of the medicament, wherein the patient has a blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl prior to the administration.

3. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient an effective amount of the medicament, wherein the patient has a forced expiratory volume (FEV_1) of at least 75% predicted value prior to the administration.

4. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of asthma, comprising administering at least two doses of the medicament to an asthma patient.

5. The use of any one of claims 2-4, wherein the administration reduces the patient's exacerbation rate.

6. The use of claim 5, wherein the administration reduces the patient's annual exacerbation rate.

7. The use of any one of claims 1 or 3-6, wherein the asthma is eosinophilic asthma.

8. The use of any one of claims 1 or 3-7, wherein the patient has a blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl.

9. The use of any one of claims 1, 2, or 4-8, wherein, the patient has a forced expiratory volume (FEV_1) of at least 75% predicted value prior to the administration.

10. The use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the patient has an asthma control questionnaire score of at least 1.5 prior to the administration.

11. The use of any one of claims 1-3 or 5-10, wherein at least two doses of the medicament are administered to the patient.

12. The use of any one of claims 1 or 6-11, which reduces the annual exacerbations rate following administration of the medicament.

13. The use of any one of claims 1 or 6-12, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 35%.

14. The use of claim 13, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 40%.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 50%.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the annual exacerbation rate is reduced by at least 60%.

17. The use of any one of claims 1-16, wherein the patient uses high-dose inhaled corticosteroids (ICS).

18. The use of any one of claims 1-17, wherein the patient uses long-acting β2 agonists (LABA).

19. The use of any one of claims 1-18, wherein the patient has a history of exacerbations.

20. The use of claim 19, wherein the history of exacerbations comprises at least two exacerbations in the year prior to the administration of the medicament.

21. The use of claim 19 or 20, wherein the history of exacerbations comprises no more than six exacerbations in the year prior to the administration of the medicament.

22. The use of any one of claims 1-21, wherein the medicament is administered at about 2 mg to about 100 mg per dose.

23. The use of claim 22, wherein the medicament is administered at about 20 mg per dose.

24. The use of claim 23, wherein the medicament is administered at about 30 mg per dose.

25. The use of claim 24, wherein the medicament is administered at about 100 mg per dose.

26. The use of any one of claims 1-25, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks to once every twelve weeks.

27. The use of claim 26, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks.

28. The use of claim 26, wherein the medicament is administered once every eight weeks.

29. The use of claim 26, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

30. The use of any one of claims 1 to 29, wherein the medicament is administered parenterally.

31. The use of claim 30, wherein the medicament is administered subcutaneously.

32. The use of any one of claims 1 to 31, wherein the medicament is administered in addition to corticosteroid therapy.

33. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the annual exacerbation rate of asthma, comprising administering to an asthma patient 20-100 mg of the medicament, wherein the patient has an blood eosinophil count of at least 300 cells/µl prior to the administration.

34. The use of claim 33, comprising administering 20 mg of the medicament.

35. The use of claim 34, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

36. The use of claim 33, comprising administering 30 mg of the medicament.

37. The use of claim 36, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks for eight weeks and then once every eight weeks.

38. The use of claim 36, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks.

39. The use of claim 33, comprising administering 100 mg of the medicament.

40. The use of claim 39, wherein the medicament is administered once every four weeks for twelve weeks and then once every eight weeks.

41. Use of benralizumab or an antigen-binding fragment thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of asthma in an asthma patient, comprising administering to the patient a dose of at least 2 and less than 100 mg of the medicament.

42. The use of claim 41, wherein 20 mg of the medicament is administered.

43. The use of claim 41, wherein 30 mg of the medicament is administered.

44. The use of claim 41, wherein a dose of at least 20 and less than 100 mg of the medicament is administered.

45. The use of claim 41, wherein a dose of at least 30 and less than 100 mg of the medicament is administered.

46. The use of any one of claims 41-45, wherein administration of the medicament decreases exacerbation rates of asthma.

47. The use of any one of claims 41-46, wherein administration of the medicament decreases annual exacerbation rates of asthma.

48. The use of any one of claims 41-47, wherein the administration is subcutaneous.