Since individual subjects may present a wide variation in severity of symptoms and each drug has its unique therapeutic characteristics, the precise mode of administration and dosage employed for each subject is left to the discretion of the practitioner. The patient will be administered the compound orally in any acceptable form, such as a tablet, liquid, capsule, powder and the like, or other routes may be desirable or necessary, particularly if the patient suffers from nausea. Such other routes may include, without exception, transdermal, parenteral, subcutaneous, intranasal, via an implant stent, intrathecal, intravitreal, topical to the eye, back of the eye, intramuscular, intravenous, and intrarectal modes of delivery. The actual amount of the compound to be administered in any given case will be determined by a physician taking into account the relevant circumstances, such as the severity of the condition, the age and weight of the patient, the patient's general physical condition, the cause of the condition, and the route of administration. Additionally, the formulations may be designed to delay release of the active compound over a given period of time, or to carefully control the amount of drug released at a given time during the course of therapy.

(S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol and its pharmaceutically-acceptable salts have extended alpha-2 adrenergic receptor agonist activity in lowering intraocular pressure and may be administered through different routes, including but not limited to topical eye drops, direct injection, application at the back of the eye or formulations that may further enhance the long duration of actions such as a slow releasing pellet, suspension, gel, or sustained delivery devices such as any suitable drug delivery system (DDS) known in the art.

While topical administration is preferred, this compound may also be used in an intraocular implant as described in U.S. Published Patent Application 20050244463. Such biocompatible intraocular implants include (S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol and a polymer associated with (S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol to facilitate release thereof into an eye for an extended period of time.

In a further aspect of the invention there is provided the use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (S) (3-(1 -(1 H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating optic neuropathy.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the exemplified embodiments, which are only intended as illustrations of specific aspects of the invention. Various

Claims

1. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising *(S)* (3-(1 -(1 H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating optic neuropathy.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.001% to about 1% by weight of a preservative.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein the composition comprises from about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight of a preservative.

4. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of a co-solvent.

5. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition further comprises from about 0.01% to about 2% by weight of a viscosity-building agent.