CLAIMS

~~1. Oxymetazoline for use in treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration to the exterior surface of an eye.~~

~~2. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.~~

~~3. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.~~

~~4. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the oxymetazoline is provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxymetazoline.~~

~~5. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration is as a single drop.~~

~~6. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the administration is at least once daily.~~

~~7. The oxymetazoline for use according to claim 1, wherein the subject does not have an allergic ocular condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.~~

~~8~~1. A long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use in treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration to the exterior surface of an eye; the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is oxymetazoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~92~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~103~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~114~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~10~~3, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~125~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~11~~4, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~136~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the phenylephrine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is provided in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

~~147~~. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

~~15~~8. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist for use according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the administration is as a single drop.

~~16~~9. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the administration is at least once daily.

~~17~~10. The long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist according to claim ~~8~~1, wherein the subject does not have an ocular allergic condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

~~18~~11. Use of oxymetazoline in the manufacture of a medicament for treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration to the exterior surface of an eye.

~~19~~12. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

~~20~~13. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~21~~14. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the oxymetazoline is provided as a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxymetazoline.

~~22~~15. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration as a single drop.

~~23~~16. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the oxymetazoline is for administration at least once daily.

~~24~~17. The use of claim ~~18~~11, wherein the subject does not have an allergic ocular condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

~~25~~18. Use of a long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist in the manufacture of a medicament for treating ptosis in a subject, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration to the exterior surface of an eye of a subject in need of such treatment; the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is oxymetazoline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

~~26~~19. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.05 weight percent oxymetazoline in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~27~~20. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.15 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~28~~21. The use of claim ~~27~~20, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and at least 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~29~~22. The use of claim ~~28~~21, wherein the oxymetazoline is formulated together with the phenylephrine as a pharmaceutical composition comprising 0.1 weight percent oxymetazoline and 0.25 weight percent phenylephrine in an ophthalmologically acceptable carrier.

~~30~~23. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the phenylephrine or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is provided in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

~~31~~24. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the administration results in at least a 10 percent increase in the vertical separation of the upper and lower lids of the eye.

~~32~~25. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration as a single drop.

~~33~~26. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the long-acting alpha adrenergic agonist and the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist are for administration at least once daily.

~~34~~27. The use of claim ~~25~~18, wherein the subject does not have an ocular allergic condition calling for treatment of the eye with oxymetazoline, does not have eyelid swelling, and has not undergone refractive eye surgery.

~~35~~28. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising oxymetazoline, a short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, formulated for topical ophthalmic use, wherein the short-acting alpha adrenergic agonist is phenylephrine.

~~36~~29. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~35~~28, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent.

~~37~~30. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~35~~28, wherein the phenylephrine is present in an amount that induces no more than a clinically insignificant mydriasis.

~~38~~31. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~35~~28, wherein the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.15 to 1.5 weight percent.

~~39~~32. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~38~~31, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of at least 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of at least 0.25 weight percent.

~~40~~33. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~39~~32, wherein the oxymetazoline is present at a concentration of 0.1 weight percent and the phenylephrine is present at a concentration of 0.25 weight percent.

~~41~~34. The pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~35~~28, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of an astringent, an antioxidant, vitamin A, a lubricant, a blue dye, and any combination thereof.