

## CLAIMS

1. Use of a polynucleotide that encodes a SORD peptide, an aldose reductase antisense oligonucleotide, an agent that blocks expression of a mutant SORD gene, an agent that corrects the mutation in SORD gene, or a combination of any of the foregoing in the preparation of a medicament for treating inherited neuropathy in a mammalian subject.
2. The use of claim 1, comprising:
  - (a) detecting the presence of a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (SORD) gene in a sample from the subject; and
  - (b) providing the polynucleotide that encodes a SORD peptide, an aldose reductase antisense oligonucleotide, an agent that blocks expression of a mutant SORD gene, an agent that corrects the mutation in SORD gene, or a combination of any of the foregoing to be administered to the subject.
3. The use of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the use comprises a polynucleotide encoding the SORD peptide.
4. The use of anyone of claims 1 to 3, wherein an agent that corrects the mutation in the SORD gene is to be administered to the subject and the agent is a CRISPR Cas9 protein and one or more guide RNA molecules.
5. Use of Alrestatin, Epalrestat, Diepalrestat, Fidarestat, Imirestat, Lidorestat, Minalrestat, Ponalrestat, Ranirestat, Salfredin B11, Sorbinil, Tolrestat, Zenarestat, or Zopolrestat in the preparation of a medicament for treating inherited neuropathy in a mammalian subject.
6. The use of claim 5, comprising:
  - (a) detecting the presence of a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (SORD) gene in a sample from the subject; and
  - (b) providing the Alrestatin, Epalrestat, Diepalrestat, Fidarestat, Imirestat, Lidorestat, Minalrestat, Ponalrestat, Ranirestat, Salfredin B11, Sorbinil, Tolrestat, Zenarestat, or Zopolrestat to be administered to the subject.
7. Use of a SORD peptide in the preparation of a medicament for treating inherited neuropathy in a mammalian subject.
8. The use of claim 7, comprising:
  - (a) detecting the presence of a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (SORD) gene in a sample from the subject; and
  - (b) providing the SORD peptide to be administered to the subject.

9. The use of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the mutation in the SORD gene is c.753delG; p.Ala253GlnfsTer27, c.329G>C; p.Arg110Pro, c.298C>T; p.Arg100Ter, or c.458C>A; p.Ala153Asp.
10. The use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the mutation in the SORD gene is c.757delG; p.Ala253GlnfsTer27, c.28C>T; p.Leu10Phe, c.316\_425+165del; p.Cys106Ter, c.295C>T; p.Arg299Ter, c.964G>A; p.Val322Ile, or a deletion of individual or multiple coding exons or the entire SORD gene.
11. The use of any one of claims 2 to 10, further comprising measuring sorbitol in a sample from the subject.
12. A method of characterizing a neuropathy in a sample from a mammalian subject, the method comprising measuring the level of sorbitol in a sample from a subject suffering from a neuropathy, wherein a sorbitol level of greater than about 10 g/L indicates that the neuropathy is associated with a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (SORD) gene.
13. A method of evaluating the efficacy of a treatment for an inherited neuropathy in a subject, the method comprising  
providing an agent selected from the group consisting of an aldose reductase inhibitor, an aldose reductase antisense oligonucleotide, a polynucleotide that encodes a SORD peptide, a SORD peptide, an agent that blocks expression of a mutant SORD gene, and an agent that corrects the mutation in SORD gene, or a combination of any of the foregoing to be administered to the subject; and  
measuring the level of sorbitol in a subject.
14. A method of diagnosis of inherited neuropathy in a mammalian subject, comprising detecting a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (*SORD*) gene in a sample from a subject, diagnosing the subject with inherited neuropathy when the presence of a mutation in the *SORD* gene is detected.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the mutation in the SORD gene is c.753delG; p.Ala253GlnfsTer27, c.329G>C; p.Arg110Pro, c.298C>T; p.Arg100Ter, or c.458C>A; p.Ala153Asp.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the mutation in the SORD gene is c.757delG; p.Ala253GlnfsTer27, c.28C>T; p.Leu10Phe, c.316\_425+165del; p.Cys106Ter, c.295C>T; p.Arg299Ter, c.964G>A; p.Val322Ile, or a deletion of individual or multiple coding exons or the entire SORD gene.

17. The method of any one of claims 14 to 16, wherein the detection of a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (*SORD*) gene in a sample from a subject before or after a step of measuring sorbitol levels in the subject.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein a sorbitol level of greater than about 10 g/L indicates that the neuropathy is associated with a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (*SORD*) gene.
19. Use of an aldose reductase inhibitor in the preparation of a medicament for treating inherited neuropathy in a mammalian subject.
20. The use of claim 19, comprising:
- (a) detecting the presence of a mutation in the sorbitol dehydrogenase (*SORD*) gene in a sample from the subject; and
  - (b) providing the aldose reductase inhibitor to be administered to the subject.