Method for Delivering A Pharmaceutical Composition to Patient in Need Thereof

BACKGROUND

The present disclosure is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Over 15 million Americans take nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) each day as a treatment for pain or inflammation. Unfortunately, many of these NSAIDs are associated with a high incidence of gastrointestinal complications, including gastritis, dyspepsia, gastroduodenal ulcers, perforations, and bleeding. A major factor contributing to the development of gastrointestinal lesions appears to be the presence of acid in the stomach and upper small intestines.

During recent years, attempts have been made to reduce the gastrointestinal risk associated with taking NSAIDs by administering agents that inhibit stomach acid secretion, such as, for example, proton pump inhibitors with the NSAID. For example, US 6,926,907 is directed to at least one drug dosage form comprising a proton pump inhibitor that raises the pH of a patient's gastrointestinal tract, followed by an NSAID. This, and similar, formulations can be effective in improving NSAID tolerability through dosages of esomeprazole and naproxen that produce the desired pharmacodynamic response and pharmacokinetic values. Parameters that may influence the desired pharmacodynamic response and pharmacokinetic values include, but are not limited to, for example, the dosage of each; extent of drug absorption; extent of drug distribution, and the duration of drug administration.

There is a need for a clinically effective therapy that delivers to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition in a unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for a duration sufficient to achieve an instragastric pH of about 4 or greater and a plasma level of naproxen that is efficacious.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one aspect, the disclosure is directed to the use of naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period of at least about 41%.

In another embodiment, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period is at least about 60%, at least about 71%, or at least about 77%.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition further targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of about 76 μg/ml or about 79 μg/ml.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL, of about 2134 hr*μg/mL or about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

In one aspect, the disclosure is directed to the use of a naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form for delivery to a patient in need thereof, wherein a first unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second unit dose form is administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for naproxen where:
   a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and
   b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for esomeprazole where:
   a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10

hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL.

In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition provides for:

a) the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 86.2 μg/mL or about 80.9 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and

a) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.8 μg/mL or about 76.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10 hours.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition described above provides for:

a) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 1216 hr*μg/mL or about about 2779 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 919 hr*μg/mL or about about 2066 hr*μg/mL.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is about 1500 hr*μg/mL, about 2000 hr*μg/mL, or about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

The use according to any one of claims 19-26, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further targets a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%, about 60%, about 71%, or about 77%.

In one embodiment, the dose form is a multilayer tablet comprising at least one core and at least a first layer and a second layer, wherein:

i) said core comprises naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

ii) said first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, when the pH of the surrounding medium is about 3.5 or greater; and

iii) said second layer comprises esomeprazole, wherein said esomeprazole is released at a pH of from about 0 or greater.

In another embodiment, the does form provides for the release of esomeprazole at a pH of from about 1 or greater, a pH of from about 0 to about 2, or at a pH of about 2 to 4. In another embodiment, at least a portion of the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not coated with an enteric coating. In another embodiment, the the first layer is an enteric coating. In yet another embodiment, the multi-layer tablet is substantially free of sodium bicarbonate. In one embodiment, the first layer begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 4.0 or about 4.5 or greater.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprises about 500 mg of said naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and about 20mg or about 30mg, of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is administered twice a day for at least about 6 days or twice a day for at least 9 days.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is for administration to an at risk patient. The at risk patient can be a patient being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation, or can be a patient being treated treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

In one aspect, the disclosure is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

In another aspect, the disclosure is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said

patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is about 650 hr*μg/mL.

Yet another aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein to a patient being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation.

A further aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein to a patient being treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

A still further aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein to an at risk patient.

Another aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein to an at risk patient being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation.

A further aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein to an at risk patient being treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

Yet another aspect is directed to delivering a pharmaceutical composition in unit dosage form that provides the pharmacodynamic response and/or pharmacokinetic values disclosed herein via a multilayer tablet comprising at least one core and at least a first layer and a second layer, wherein:

i) said core comprises naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

ii) said first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 3.5 or greater; and

iii) said second layer is esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from about 0 or greater.

BREIF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1: Mean pH data over 24 hours on day 9 per protocol population. Treatment A=PN400/E30; B=PN400/E20; C=PN400/E10; D=EC E20 + naproxen.

Figure 2: Mean intragastric pH data over 24 hours on day 1 per protocol population. Treatment A=PN400/E30; B=PN400/E20; C=PN400/E10; D=EC E20 + naproxen.

Figure 3: Mean plasma esomeprazole concentration vs. time curves on day 1.

Figure 4: Mean plasma esomeprazole concentration vs. time curves on day 9.

Figure 5: Mean plasma naproxen concentration vs. time curves on day 1.

Figure 6: Mean plasma naproxen concentration vs. time curves on day 9.

Figure 7: Correlation of plasma exposure to esomeprazole with effect on intragastric pH on day 9.

Figure 8A: Mean pH data and mean naproxen concentration vs. time profiles over a 24-hour period on day 9: Treatment B (PN 400/E20).

Figure 8B: Mean pH data and mean naproxen concentration vs. time profiles over a 24-hour period on day 9: Treatment D (EC E20 + naproxen).

Figure 9: Mean Plasma Naproxen Concentration vs. Time Curves by Treatment (All Subjects)

Figure 10: Mean Plasma Esomeprazole Concentration vs. Time Curves by Treatment.

Figure 11: Mean plasma concentrations of naproxen and esomeprazole following single dose administration of PN 400/E20 over a 24-hour period. Figure 11 combines the esomeprazole and naproxen concentration vs. time curves derived for PN 400, as depicted in Figure 9 (for naproxen) and Figure 10 (for esomeprazole), at 30 minute timepoints through 4 hours, 2 hour timepoints from 4 to 12 hours, and 4 hour timepoints from 12 to 24 hours. Because Figures 9 and 10 present more frequent timepoints, the appearance of the curves in Figure 11 may differ slightly from their appearance in Figures 9 and 10.

Abbreviations and/or special terms that may be used herein are set forth in Table 1 and the text that follows.

Table 1: Abbreviations and Special Terms

Abbreviation	Explanation
ANOVA	*analysis of variance*
AUC	*area under the plasma concentration-time curve*
$AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$	*AUC from time zero (time of AM dosing) to 10 hours after the AM dose*
$AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$	*AUC from time zero (time of PM dosing) to 14 hours after the PM dose*
$AUC_{0\text{-}24}$	*AUC from time zero (time of AM dosing) to 24 hours after the AM dose*
$AUC_{0\text{-}t,am}$	*AUC from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration following AM dosing*
$AUC_{0\text{-}t,pm}$	*AUC from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration following PM dosing*
$AUC_{0\text{-}t}$	AUC from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration
Bid	*twice daily*
BQL	*below the lower limit of quantification*
CBC	*complete blood count*
CI	*confidence interval*
$C_{max,am}$	*maximum plasma concentration after the AM dose*
$C_{max,pm}$	*maximum plasma concentration after the PM dose*
CV	*coefficient of variation*
GCP	*Good Clinical Practice*
EC	*enteric-coated*
ECG	*electrocardiogram*
eCRF	*electronic case report form*

E_{max}	*maximal response or pharmacodynamic effect*
GI	*Gastrointestinal*
GLSM	*Geometric least-squares mean*
HPLC/MS/MS	*high pressure liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry*
ITT	*intent-to-treat*
LLOQ	*lower limit of quantification*
LS	*least square*
MedDRA	*Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities*
MRM	*multiple reaction monitoring*
$\lambda_{z,am}$	*apparent first-order elimination rate constant following AM dosing*
$\lambda_{z,pm}$	*apparent first-order elimination rate constant following PM dosing*
Ln	*natural log*
PD	*pharmacodynamic(s)*
PDS	*Phoenix Data Systems*
PK	*pharmacokinetic(s)*
PP	*per protocol*
PPD	*Pharmaceutical Product Development*
PPI	*proton pump inhibitor*
QC	*quality control*
SD	*standard deviation*
SE	*standard error*
SOC	*system organ class*
SPE	*solid phase extraction*
$t_{lag,am}$	*time to the first measurable plasma concentration following the AM dose ($t_{lag,am}$)*
$t_{lag,pm}$	*time to the first measurable plasma concentration following the PM dose ($t_{lag,am}$)*
t_{last}	*last time point with measurable drug concentration*
t_{max}	*time to maximum plasma concentration*
$t_{1/2,am}$	*apparent plasma half-life following the AM dose*
$t_{1/2,pm}$	*apparent plasma half-life following the PM dose*

The term "at risk patient" refers to patient(s) at risk for NSAID associated ulcer due to age or a documented history of gastric ulcers, or receiving concomitant LDA (low dose aspirin). In one embodiment, the at risk patient is a patient at risk for NSAID associated ulcer due to age greater than or equal to 50 years. In another embodiment, the at risk patient is a patient at risk for NSAID associated ulcer due to concomitant aspirin use. In yet another embodiment, the at risk patient is a patient at risk for NSAID associated ulcer due to history of upper gastrointestinal (UGI) ulcer or bleeding

The term "pharmaceutically-acceptable", as employed herein, indicates the subject matter being identified as "pharmaceutically acceptable" is suitable and physiologically acceptable for administration to a patient/subject. For example, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s)" denotes suitable and physiologically acceptable salt(s).

The phrase "naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof" refers to the free base of naproxen, pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of naproxen, and/or mixtures of the free base of naproxen and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naproxen.

The phrase "esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof" refers to the free base of esomeprazole, pharmaceutically acceptable salt(s) of esomeprazole, and/or mixtures of the free base of esomeprazole and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable salt of esomeprazole.

The term "unit dosage form" (or "unit dose form") as used herein refers to a single entity for drug administration. For example, a single tablet or capsule containing both esomeprazole and naproxen is a unit dosage form. Unit dosage forms of the present disclosure provide for sequential drug release in a way that elevates gastric pH and reduces the deleterious effects of naproxen on the gastroduodenal mucosa, *i.e.*, the esomeprazole is released first and the release of naproxen is delayed until after the pH in the GI tract has risen to 3.5 or greater. A "unit dosage form" (or "unit dose form") may also be referred to as a "fixed dosage form" (or "fixed dose form") or fixed dosage combination (or fixed dose combination") and are otherwise interchangeable.

For the values provided herein, the term "about" indicates a given number may vary by at least 5%, with variations of 10%, 15% or 20% being possible.

With regard to the pharmacokinetic and/or pharmacodynamic values provided herein, the degree of variation is reflected in SDs and % CV values. The % CV = SD/mean x 100; the SD = (% CV x mean) divided by 100. It can be expected that approximately 68% of patients will be within one SD of the mean and approximately 95% of patients will be within two SDs of the mean. The pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic values presented herein are average values, rounded to the nearest whole number, and are based upon results obtained from multiple individuals. As a result, the values presented herein may vary from one patient to another. This variation is reflected in the term "about."

With regard to the dosages of each of naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and/or esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof the term "about" is intended to reflect variations from the specifically identified dosages that are acceptable within the art.

With regard to time periods referred to herein, the term "about" is intended to reflect variations from the specifically identified time periods that are acceptable within the art.

With regard to the numerical % coefficient of variation values and/or ranges used herein, the term "about" is intended to reflect variations above and below the stated numerical value and/or range that that may achieve substantially the same results as the stated number.

With regard to the pH values and/or ranges recited herein, the term "about" is intended to to capture variations above and below the stated number that may achieve substantially the same results as the stated number.

With regard to the term numerical values used in conjunction with the phrase "substantially free", the term is intended to to capture variations above and below the stated number that may achieve substantially the same results as the stated number.

The phrase "substantially free" means from about 95% to about 99.99% free. In one embodiment, substantially free means about 95% free. In another embodiment, the term substantially free means about 96% free. In still another embodiment, the term substantially free means about 97% free. In yet another embodiment, the term substantially free means about 98% free. In a further embodiment, the term substantially free means about 99% free. In still a further embodiment, the term substantially free means about 99.99% free.

In the present disclosure, each of the variously stated ranges is intended to be continuous so as to include each numerical parameter between the stated minimum and maximum value of each range. For Example, a range of about 1 to about 4 includes about 1, 1, about 2, 2, about 3, 3, about 4, and 4.

In one embodiment, the disclosure is directed to the use of naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period of at least about 41%.

In another embodiment, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period is at least about 60%, at least about 71%, or at least about 77%.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition further targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of about 76 μg/ml or about 79 μg/ml.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL, of about 2134 hr*μg/mL or about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

In one aspect, the disclosure is directed to the use of a naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form for delivery to a patient in need thereof, wherein a first unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second unit dose form is administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0-10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0-14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL.

In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition provides for:

a) the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 86.2 μg/mL or about 80.9 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and

b) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.8 μg/mL or about 76.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10 hours.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition described above provides for:

a) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 1216 hr*μg/mL or about about 2779 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 919 hr*μg/mL or about about 2066 hr*μg/mL.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is about 1500 hr*μg/mL, about 2000 hr*μg/mL, or about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

The use according to any one of claims 19-26, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further targets a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%, about 60%, about 71%, or about 77%.

Steady state levels of naproxen or esomeprazole are generally reached in about 4 to 5 days, about 5 to 6 days, about 6 to 7 days, about 7 to 8 days, about 8 to 9 days, or about 9 to 10 days after [twice daily] delivery of the pharmaceutical compositions in unit dose form disclosed herein. In other embodiments, steady state levels of naproxen or esomeprazole are reached in about 4 days, about 5 days, about 6 days, about 7 days, about 8 days, about 9 days, or about 10 days.

In one embodiment, the dose form is a multilayer tablet comprising at least one core and at least a first layer and a second layer, wherein:

i) said core comprises naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

ii) said first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, when the pH of the surrounding medium is about 3.5 or greater; and

iii) said second layer comprises esomeprazole, wherein said esomeprazole is released at a pH of from about 0 or greater.

In another embodiment, the does form provides for the release of esomeprazole at a pH of from about 1 or greater, a pH of from about 0 to about 2, or at a pH of about 2 to 4.

In another embodiment, at least a portion of the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not coated with an enteric coating. In another embodiment, the the first layer is an enteric coating. In yet another embodiment, the multi-layer tablet is substantially free of sodium bicarbonate. In one embodiment, the first layer begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 4.0 or about 4.5 or greater.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprises about 500 mg of said naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and about 20mg or about 30mg, of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is administered twice a day for at least about 6 days or twice a day for at least 9 days.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition is for administration to an at risk patient. The at risk patient can be a patient being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation, or can be a patient being treated treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

One embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

In other embodiments, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 40%, about 45%, about 50%, about 55%, about 60%, about 65%, about 70%, about 71%, about 75%, about 77%, about 80%, about 85%, about 90%, or about 95%.

Another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from

said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41% and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of at least 76 µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 17-23.

A further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41% and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of about 76 µg/mL.

Yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41% and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of at least 1500 hr*µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Yet a further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41% and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area

under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

Still yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of at least 76 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 17-23 and a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Still even yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of about 76 μg/mL and a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

A still even further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is

released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of at least 76 µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 17-23.

Yet a further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen of about 76 µg/mL.

A yet still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of at least 1500 hr*µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

A yet even further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater to target: and a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*µg/mL.

A further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically

acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85.

A yet further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL.

A still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours.

A yet still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours.

A yet even still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85.

A further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL.

A yet still even further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85; and

iii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

A still even further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about least 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL; and

iii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

Still yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

A still yet further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

Even still yet a further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85; and

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour after reaching steady state period of at least about 41%.

An even still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL; and

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

A yet still even further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85;

iii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iv) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole of at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about least 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL;

iii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iv) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

A further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0-10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0-14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

A yet further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically

acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

A still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Still a further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

Yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is

administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Yet still another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

Yet a further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from

said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 850 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 650 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85;

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Yet a still further embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for esomeprazole where:

a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL;

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole of about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

Yet another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 81 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 22-23 and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of at least 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 18-23 and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is at least 1500 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

Yet still another embodiment is directed to a method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprising: administering to said patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein one unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second dose administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

i) a pk profile for naproxen where:

a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours;

ii) a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%; and

iii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

In another embodiment, naproxen can be present as the free base in an amount of from about 500 mg.

In still another embodiment, naproxen can be present as the free base in an amount of about 500 mg.

In yet another embodiment, naproxen can be present in equivalent amounts of pharmaceutically acceptable salts of naproxen, *e.g.*, sodium naproxen.

In a further embodiment, esomeprazole can be present as a magnesium salt.

In an even further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, can be present in an amount to provide from about 10 mg to about 30 mg of esomeprazole.

In a further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, can be present in an amount to provide about 15 mg of esomeprazole.

In yet an even further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, can be present in an amount to provide about 20 mg of esomeprazole.

In still yet another embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, can be present in an amount to provide about 30 mg of esomeprazole.

In still another embodiment, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 60%.

In yet another embodiment, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 71%.

In still yet an even further embodiment, the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 77%.

In an even still further embodiment, the mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen is at least 79 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 17-23.

In a further embodiment, the mean maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) for naproxen is about 79 μg/mL.

In yet an even still further embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is 2134 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 74.

In another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 2134 hr*μg/mL.

In yet another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 2000 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 40-80.

In yet another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 2000 hr*μg/mL.

In still another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

In a still further embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is 4911 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 42.

In yet still a further embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprises about 500 mg of said naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and about 20mg of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprises about 500 mg of said naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and about 30mg of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In yet another embodiment, the unit dose form is administered twice a day for at least 6 days.

In still another embodiment, the unit dose form is administered twice a day for at least 9 days.

In still yet another embodiment, the patient in need thereof is an at risk patient.

In yet another embodiment, the at risk patient is being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation.

In a further embodiment, the at risk patient is being treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

In another embodiment, the patient in need thereof is being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation.

In yet another embodiment, the patient in need thereof is being treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

In yet another embodiment, the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is 86.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 22 and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is 76.8 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 18 and said median T_{max} is about 10 hours.

In another embodiment, the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 86.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.8 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10 hours.

In still another embodiment, the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is 80.9 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 23 and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and b) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is 76.2 μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 23 and said median T_{max} is about 10.4 hours.

In still yet another embodiment, the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 80.9 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and b) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10.4 hours.

In yet still another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is 1216 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 69, and the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is 919 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 84.

In a further embodiment, the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) is at least 900 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 50-85.

In a still further embodiment, the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 900 hr*μg/mL.

In a still even further embodiment, the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 2100 hr*μg/mL.

In yet another embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 1216 hr*μg/mL, and the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 919 hr*μg/mL.

In an even further embodiment, the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) is at least 1200 hr*μg/mL with a % coefficient of variation ranging from 45-70.

In a still even further embodiment, the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 1200 hr*μg/mL .

In a till even further embodiment, the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 2800 hr*μg/mL.

In still yet a further embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is 2779 hr*µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 45, and the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is 2066 hr*µg/mL with a % coefficient of variation of 53.

In an even further embodiment, the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 2779 hr*µg/mL, and the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 2066 hr*µg/mL.

In an even further embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form is a multilayer tablet comprising at least one core and at least a first layer and a second layer, wherein said core comprises naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; said first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, when the pH of the surrounding medium of about 3.5 or greater; said second layer is esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from about 0 or greater.

In an even further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from 0 or greater.

In another embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from about 1 or greater.

In a further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from 1 or greater.

In still another embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from about 0 to about 2.

In yet a further embodiment, esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released at a pH of from 0 to 2.

In yet still another embodiment, at least a portion of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not coated with an enteric coating.

In even yet still another embodiment, the first layer is an enteric coating.

In an even further embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form is a multilayer tablet comprising a core comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a first layer comprising a coating that at least begins releasing the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is about 3.5 or greater and a second layer comprising esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein at least a portion of said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not surrounded by an enteric coating.

In another embodiment, the first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is about 4.0, 4.5, 5.0 or greater.

In still yet another embodiment, said first layer begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 4.0 or greater.

In a further embodiment, said first layer begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 4.5 or greater.

In yet a further embodiment, said first layer begins to release the naproxen when the pH of the surrounding medium is at about 5.0 or greater.

In one embodiment, at least about 95% of the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not surrounded by an enteric coating.

In another embodiment, at least about 99% of the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not surrounded by an enteric coating. In yet another embodiment, at least about 99.5% of the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is not surrounded by an enteric coating.

In yet another embodiment, the multilayer tablet is substantially free of sodium bicarbonate.

In still another embodiment, the multilayer tablet is completely (i.e., 100%) free of sodium bicarbonate.

In one embodiment, the dosing regimen is twice a day.

In another embodiment, the doses can be separated by a period of at least about 10 hours.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form is given about 1 hour before a patient ingests a meal.

In another embodiment, the pharmaceutical compositions of the present disclosure may be administered therapeutically to patients either short term or over a longer period of time, for example chronically.

In other embodiments, long term or chronic administration of the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein can result in intragastric pH being at least about 4.0 or greater a higher percentage of time per 24 hour period versus short-term administration. For example, administration of certain pharmaceutical compositions may result in a higher percentage time of intragastric pH being greater than about 4.0 on Day 9 versus Day 1 of treatment.

In another embodiment, the method for delivering a pharmaceutical composition to a patient in need thereof, comprises administering to the patient a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprising naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein intragastric pH is increased to at least about 4.0 within one hour of administration.

In another embodiment, intragastric pH is increased to at least about 4.0 or greater within 30 or 45 minutes of administration

The pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein include, but are not limited to, for example, tablets and capsules that can be made in accordance with methods that are standard in the art (see, *e.g.*, Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 16th ed., A Oslo editor, Easton, Pa. (1980)).

Suitable carriers include, but are not limited to: water; salt solutions; alcohols; gum arabic; vegetable oils; benzyl alcohols; polyethylene glycols; gelatin; carbohydrates such as lactose, amylose or starch; magnesium stearate; talc; silicic acid; paraffin; perfume oil; fatty acid esters; hydroxymethylcellulose; polyvinyl pyrrolidone; etc.

The pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein can be sterilized and, if desired, mixed with, for example, auxiliary agents, such as, for example, preservatives; stabilizers; buffers; coloring agents; and flavoring agents.

In one embodiment, at least one of the layers comprising the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein may be applied using standard coating techniques. The layer materials may be dissolved or dispersed in organic or aqueous solvents. The layer materials may include, but are not limited to, for example, one or more of the following materials: methacrylic acid copolymers, shellac, hydroxypropylmethcellulose phthalate, polyvinyl acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose trimellitate,

carboxymethylethyl-cellulose, cellulose acetate phthalate, and/or other suitable polymer(s). The pH at which the first layer dissolves can be controlled by the polymer or combination of polymers selected and/or ratio of pendant groups. For example, dissolution characteristics of the polymer film can be altered by the ratio of free carboxyl groups to ester groups. The layers may also contain pharmaceutically acceptable plasticizers, such as, for example, triethyl citrate, dibutyl phthalate, triacetin, polyethylene glycols, polysorbates or other plasticizers. Additives, such as, for example, dispersants, colorants, anti-adhering, and anti-foaming agents may also be used.

In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical compositions disclosed herein can be in the form of a bi- or multi-layer tablet. In a bi-layer tablet, one portion/layer of the tablet contains the esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the required dose along with appropriate excipients, agents to aid dissolution, lubricants, fillers, etc.; and a second portion/layer of the tablet contains the NSAID in the required dose along with other excipients, dissolution agents, lubricants, fillers, etc.

In another embodiment, the naproxen portion/layer is surrounded by a polymeric coating that dissolves at a pH of at least about 3.5 or greater.

In yet another embodiment, the naproxen portion/layer is surrounded by a polymeric coating that dissolves at a pH of at least about 4 or greater.

The naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, may be granulated by methods such as slugging, low- or high- shear granulation, wet granulation, or fluidized-bed granulation. Of these processes, slugging generally produces tablets of less hardness and greater friability. Low-shear granulation, high-shear granulation, wet granulation and fluidized-bed granulation generally produce harder, less friable tablets.

Example(s)

The invention is further defined in the following Example(s). It should be understood the Example(s) are given by way of illustration only. From the above discussion and the Example(s), one skilled in the art can ascertain the essential characteristics of the invention, and without departing from the spirit and scope thereof, can make various changes and modifications to adapt the invention to various uses and conditions. As a result, the invention is not limited by the illustrative example(s) set forth hereinbelow, but rather defined by the claims appended hereto.

Example 1

A randomized, open-label, 4-way cross-over study to evaluate the effect on days 1 and 9 of twice daily oral administration of three PN 400 formulations (enteric coated naproxen 500 mg combined with non-enteric coated esomeprazole 10, 20, or 30 mg) versus the effect of twice daily oral administration of a separate 500 mg non-enteric coated naproxen tablet and once daily oral administration of a separate EC esomeprazole (20 mg) capsule (Nexium® 20mg capsule) on the 24-hour intragastric pH and pharmacokinetic parameters (i.e., C_{max}, T_{max}, $AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$, $AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$, $AUC_{0\text{-}24}$, $AUC_{0\text{-}t,am}$, and $AUC_{0\text{-}t,pm}$) of healthy volunteers. The PN400 tablet is a multilayer tablet comprising an inner core of naproxen surrounded by a first layer comprising an enteric coating and a second layer comprising non-enteric coated esomeprazole.

The study was designed to compare the pharmacodynamic (PD) measurements of intragastric pH (percent time of pH > 4.0) on Day 9 of three PN 400 formulations following twice daily (BID) administration versus a combination of non-enteric coated naproxen taken BID and EC esomeprazole (20 mg) taken once daily.

The study was also designed to compare the PD measurement of intragastric pH (percent time of pH > 4.0) on Day 1 of three PN 400 formulations following BID administration versus a combination of non-enteric coated naproxen taken BID and EC esomeprazole taken once daily; and assess the pharmacokinetics of esomeprazole and naproxen on Day 1 and Day 9 in each of the treatment groups.

This was a single-center study in 28 healthy adults. The study consisted of four 9-day treatment periods. The first, second and third treatment periods were followed by a washout period of at least 12 days. Eligible subjects reported to the Phase 1 unit in the PM of Day 0 for screening.

Screening procedures included procurement of informed consent, medical and drug history, physical examination, vital signs, 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG), clinical laboratory testing, urine drug screen, pregnancy test for females of childbearing potential, and helicobacter pylori breath test. Clinical laboratory tests, physical examination, and measurement of vital signs were performed at Screening and the Final Visit. A 12-lead electrocardiogram (ECG) and 13C-urea breath test to screen for possible helicobacter pylori infection were performed at Screening. A urine drug screen for all subjects and a urine pregnancy test for women of childbearing potential were performed on Days 0 and 8 of each treatment period. On Days 1 and 9 of each treatment period, 24-hour blood sampling

was performed for pharmacokinetic (PK) assessments. Subjects were instructed to report to the Phase 1 unit within 14 days of the initiation of screening procedures.

28 subjects were planned, randomized and treated, and data for 25 subjects were analyzed as the Per-Protocol (PP) population; the Intent-to-Treat (ITT), Safety and PK populations included all 28 subjects. Subjects were healthy males or non-lactating, non-pregnant females 18 to 55 years of age with a body mass index of 19-32 kg/m^2, were helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) negative, and were generally in good health with no history of peptic ulcer disease or other acid-related gastrointestinal (GI) symptoms.

Subject enrollment and disposition are summarized in Table 2. Twenty-eight subjects were randomized and treated at one investigational center; these subjects comprised the PK population. One subject dropped out of the study for personal reasons after completing 3 treatment periods (Treatments A [PN 400/E30], B [PN 400/E20] and D [EC E20 + naproxen]). The PP population included 25 subjects.

Table 2: Subject Enrollment and Disposition – All Subjects

	Subjects (%) N=28
Subjects Randomized and Treated	28 (100)
Safety Population	28 (100)
Intent-to-Treat Population	28 (100)
Per Protocol Population	25 (89)
PK Population	28 (100)
Subjects Completed	27 (96)
Subjects Withdrawn Prematurely	1 (4)
Adverse event	0
Withdrew consent	0
Lost to follow-up	0
Other	1 (4)

The demographic characteristics of the ITT population at Screening are summarized in Table 3. The study population was 68% male and had a mean age of approximately 25 years. All subjects were white and non-Hispanic.

Table 3: Demographic Characteristics – ITT Population

	Total Subjects N=28
Age (years)	
n	28
Mean (SD)	24.9 (3.9)
Median	24
Range	18-34
Gender – n (%)	
Males	19 (68)
Females	9 (32)
Race – n (%)	
White	28 (100)
Black/African American	0
Asian	0
Other	0
Ethnicity – n (%)	
Hispanic or Latino	0
Not Hispanic or Latino	28 (100)
Height (in)	
n	28
Mean (SD)	70.1 (4.1)
Median	70.0
Range	63 – 79
Weight (lb)	
n	28
Mean (SD)	177.9 (34.6)
Median	178.0
Range	112 – 250

At any time during Screening but at least prior to Day 1 of the first treatment period, subjects had their lower esophageal sphincter (LES) located to determine accurate placement of the pH probe.

Subjects were randomized on Day 1 of the first treatment period into 1 of 4 dosing sequences to receive a 9-day course of each one of the following daily treatment regimens in a crossover fashion:

Treatment A: 1 tablet PN 400/E30 (EC naproxen 500 mg and non-EC esomeprazole 30 mg) BID.

Treatment B: 1 tablet PN 400/E20 (EC naproxen 500 mg and non-EC esomeprazole 20 mg) BID.

Treatment C: 1 tablet PN 400/E10 (EC naproxen 500 mg and non-EC esomeprazole 10 mg) BID.

Treatment D: EC E20 + naproxen (1 tablet non-EC naproxen 500 mg and 1 capsule EC esomeprazole 20 mg in the AM and 1 tablet non-EC naproxen 500 mg in the PM)

All treatments were administered by study personnel 60 minutes prior to meals (i.e. doses were taken 60 minutes prior to breakfast (after an over night fast, for the AM dose) and/or 60 minutes prior to dinner (for the PM dose) for 9 days). The study medications administered BID were administered approximately 10 hours apart. Prior to administration of the Day 1 AM dose of study drug, the pH probe was placed to monitor intragastric pH for a period of 24 hours. The distal electrode was placed 10 cm below the LES with the proximal electrode placed 5 cm above the LES using the LES locator and/or by use of formal esophageal manometry by the investigator. The position of the distance of the electrode from the nostrils was recorded to facilitate the 24-hour intragastric pH assessments.

In addition, a pre-AM dose blood sample was collected. Post-AM dose blood samples were drawn approximately: 10, 20, 30 and 45 minutes and 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 (pre-PM dose blood sample), 10.17, 10.33, 10.5, 10.75, 11, 11.5, 12, 12.5, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 24 hours for PK assessments. After AM dosing on Day 2, subjects were discharged from the Phase 1 unit and instructed to return for the next dosing in the PM of Day 2 and on Days 3-8 to receive the AM and PM doses. Subjects were confined to the Phase 1 unit in the PM of Day 8 in preparation for the 24-hour PK and pH assessments on Day 9. Monitoring of pH and blood sample collection on Day 9 was as described above for Day 1. The pH probe was removed in the AM on Day 10. Final PK samples were collected in the AM of Day 10.

Subjects were instructed to return to the Phase 1 unit for subsequent treatment periods and reminded of the timing for the next treatment period (i.e., the wash-out period of at least 12 days between treatments). In each subsequent treatment period, the same procedures were performed as during the first period, and final study procedures were performed on Day 10 of the last treatment period or whenever a subject discontinued from the study.

The PK measurements used in this study are assessments commonly used in Phase I studies.

Measuring intragatric pH

The procedure used to measuring intragastric pH is standard commonly used in assessing the pharmacodynamic effect of acid-suppressing drugs. A Medtronics Digitrapper pH data logger (Medtronics, Minneapolis, MN) was used to record pH. The 24-hour pH assessments were performed on Days 1 and 9. The pH recording system measured the difference in potential between the recording and reference electrodes in the tip of the probe and stored this value every couple of seconds. The pH data was provided to a third party blinded to the assigned treatment groups. The third party evaluated the data to determine the validity of the pH recordings based on the following established criteria: At least 20 hours of valid pH data within a pre-specified reference range; No technical failures of the pH recording; and Less than 1 continuous hour with pH data outside the reference range.

Collection of Samples

PK blood samples were collected in 6 mL sodium heparin VACUTAINER tubes and stored on ice until centrifuged within 30 minutes of sample draw for approximately 10 minutes at 3000 rpm (approximately 1800 x g) in a refrigerated centrifuge maintained at approximately 4 °C. Plasma supernatant was withdrawn and frozen at -20 °C or colder within 60 minutes of collection. Samples were divided into 2 equal aliquots, with 1 tube being used for naproxen analysis and the other for esomeprazole analysis. Samples were kept frozen at – 20 °C and shipped overnight to PPD Development, Richmond VA for analysis at the end of the study.

Analysis of Esomeprazole in Plasma

Assay Methods

Esomeprazole is optically stable and the degree of conversion from the S to the R enantiomer in humans is negligible. Thus sample analysis for esomeprazole was performed using the validated high performance liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (HPLC/MS/MS) method for omeprazole. This method was developed and validated by PPD Development, Richmond, VA.

Assay methods were generally performed as essentially described hereinbelow:

A 100 µL aliquot of human plasma containing the anti-coagulant (sodium heparin) and the analytes was fortified with the internal standard (deuterated analog of omeprazole). The analytes were isolated by solid phase extraction (SPE) using a Phenomenex Strata-X (10 mg) 96-well SPE plate. The final extract was analyzed by HPLC with MS/MS

detection using a Micromass Quattro Micro, triple quadrupole instrument. Chromatographic retention and separation of the analytes were obtained on Betasil Silica-100 analytical column (3 x 50 mm, 5 μm particle size) using a gradient mobile phase program. Mobile phase A consisted of 0.1% formic acid in acetonitrile and mobile phase B consisted of 0.1% formic acid. The analytes were detected by MS/MS with positive electrospray ionization in the mode of multiple reaction monitoring (MRM), with ions monitored for omeprazole (m/z 346→198) and deuterated omeprazole (m/z 349→198).

Quantification was by analyte to internal standard peak area ratio. The linear range of quantitation was 1 to 1000 ng/mL in human plasma, with a lower limit of quantification (LLOQ) of 1 ng/mL. The assay was validated in terms of specificity, precision, accuracy, and sample stability.

Assay Performance

A set of 8 calibration standards ranging from 1.00 to 1000 ng/mL and quality control (QC) samples at 5 different concentrations (2.60, 8.00, 30.0, 130, and 750 ng/mL) of each analyte were prepared and stored at -20 °C. Between-batch precision and accuracy for analysis of the QC samples were determined from batch analyses of clinical samples in this study. Precision was measured as the percent coefficient of variation (%CV) of the set of values obtained for each QC level. Accuracy was expressed as the percent difference of the mean value from the theoretical concentration at each QC level.

The inter-assay CV of the QCs for the omeprazole runs ranged from 3.44% to 5.88%, with mean percent differences from theoretical ranging from 0.329% to 1.80%. The differences of back-calculated calibration curve values from nominal values ranged from -2.87% to 1.54%. For the analytical runs, which contained diluted subject samples, the appropriate level quality control pool was diluted and analyzed in a similar manner to validate the dilution of study samples. The %CV of the diluted QCs for the run ranged from 0.599% to 2.74% with mean percent differences from theoretical ranging from -1.24% to 3.99%.

Analysis of Naproxen in Plasma

Assay Methods

Concentrations of naproxen in human plasma were generally determined essentially as described hereinbelow using a validated HPLC method with fluorescence detection developed and validated at PPD Development, Richmond, VA.

A 100 µL aliquot of human plasma containing sodium heparin and the analytes was combined with the internal standard solution (2-naphthylacetic acid) and diluted with potassium chloride. The analyte and the internal standard were isolated using liquid-liquid extraction. Chromatographic retention and separation of the analytes was obtained on a Symmetry C18 column (4.6 x 150 mm, 5 µm particle size) using an isocratic mobile phase consisting of 45% acetonitrile: 55% 14.8 mM phosphate buffer. The analytes were detected by fluorescence using excitation and emission wavelengths of 230 nm and 370 nm, respectively.

Quantification was by analyte to internal standard peak height ratio. The nominal range of the method was 0.10 to 100 µg/mL for naproxen in human plasma with an LLOQ of 0.10 µg/mL.

Assay Performance

A set of 8 calibration standards ranging from 0.1 to 100 µg/mL and QC samples at 5 different concentrations (0.28, 0.80, 3.0, 12.0 and 76.0 µg/mL) of the analyte were prepared and stored at -20 °C. Between-batch precision and accuracy for analysis of the QC samples were determined from batch analyses of clinical samples in this study. Precision was measured as the %CV of the set of values obtained for each QC level. Accuracy was expressed as the percent difference of the mean value from the theoretical concentration at each QC level.

The inter-assay CV of the QCs for the naproxen runs ranged from 2.22% to 9.59%, with mean percent differences from theoretical ranging from -3.59% to 0.933%. The differences of back-calculated calibration curve values from nominal values ranged from –4.73% to 3.79%. For the analytical run that contained diluted subject samples, the appropriate level of QC samples was diluted and analyzed in a similar manner to validate the dilution of study samples. The %CV of the diluted QCs for the run was 4.12% with a mean percent difference from theoretical of -1.54%.

Statistics and Analysis

Data were summarized by reporting the frequency and percentage of subjects in each category for categorical and ordinal measures, and means, standard deviation or standard error, medians, and ranges for continuous measures. All statistical analyses and data listings were completed using the SAS® system, version 8.2 or higher.

Three analysis populations were used for analysis:

1) Intent-to-Treat (ITT) population: all randomized subjects who had valid pH data for at least 1 treatment period. A subject was considered to have valid pH data for each treatment period if the subject received all doses of study medication per protocol, had at least 20 hours of valid pH data determined by the clinical investigator, did not have technical failures of the pH recording, and did not have one continuous hour or more with pH data outside the reference range.

2) Per-Protocol (PP) population: all ITT subjects who had valid pH data for all four treatment periods and did not violate the protocol in a way that would have significantly impacted the evaluation of PD endpoints.

3) PK population: all randomized subjects who received all doses of study medication for at least one treatment period and had adequate blood sampling to determine the PK parameters of the study drugs.

Pharmacodynamic Endpoints

For each Digitrapper session, separate plots of the esophageal and intragastric pH readings for each subject were prepared and reviewed for non-valid pH data. Particular attention was paid to recorded pH values that were outside the range from 0.6 to 8.0. Values considered by the investigator to be unlikely to have occurred due to a reasonable expectation of method variability, and which persisted to such an extent as to suggest possible transient unreliability of the equipment, were identified and excised from the database. Other apparent 'flat-lining' of the pH readings could also result in a determination of non-valid data.

The PD endpoints were summarized by treatment and analyzed by Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). The ANOVA model included sequence, period, and treatment as fixed effects, and subject within sequence as a random effect. The least square (LS) means for each treatment, the difference of LS means between each of the PN 400 treatments and the active control, and 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for all treatment differences were calculated. Both ITT and PP populations were used for the PD analysis. The PP population was the primary analysis population. In addition, the percent time of pH > 3.0 and > 5.0 on Days 1 and 9 was analyzed in a similar fashion as the percent time of pH > 4.0. Mean pH data over 24 hours on Days 1 and 9 were plotted by treatment.

From a previous study, the within-subject standard deviation (SD) of percent time of pH > 4.0 was 10%. The current study planned to enroll 28 subjects with the aim to have 24 evaluable subjects for analysis. A total of 24 subjects provides 80% power to reject the null

hypothesis that the difference between each of the PN 400 treatments and the active control in percent time of pH > 4.0 over 24 hours is ≤ -8% using a pairwise t-test with a one-sided significance level of 0.05.

Primary Pharmacodynamic Endpoint: Percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 on Day 9

Results from Day 9 are set forth in Table 4. On Day 9, both PN 400/E30 and PN 400/E20 treatments resulted in a greater percent time with intragastric pH > 4.0 than treatment with EC E20 + naproxen. PN 400/E10 had the lowest percent time with intragastric pH > 4.0 and was also the most variable treatment as evidenced by the high %CV in Table 4.

Table 4: Percent Time of pH Greater than 4.0 – Day 9 – Per-Protocol Population

	A PN 400/E30	**B PN 400/E20**	**C PN 400/E10**	**D EC E20 + naproxen**
	N=25	N=25	N=25	N=25
% Time of pH > 4.0				
Mean (SD)	76.50 (12.26)	71.35 (13.01)	40.85 (22.51)	56.85 (10.06)
Median	78.79	70.42	35.76	55.14
% Coefficient of variation	16	18	55	18
Range	49.79 – 95.32	51.76 – 97.61	10.30 – 85.26	40.63 – 75.51
LS Mean (SD)	76.75 (3.02)	71.46 (3.02)	41.09 (3.02)	57.23 (3.02)
LS Mean Difference (SE)	A vs. D 19.52 (3.25)	B vs. D 14.23 (3.25)	C vs. D -16.14 (3.25)	--
95% Confidence Interval	13.04 – 26.01	7.75 – 20.71	-22.26 – -9.66	--

On Day 1, the LS mean percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 ranged from 13% with PN 400/E10 to 28% with PN 400/E30. Treatment differences compared to EC E20 + naproxen were small. Only PN 400/E30 (28%) had a statistically significant, greater percent time with pH > 4.0 compared to EC E20 + naproxen (21%).

As shown in Figure 1, there were three increases in pH throughout the day which were associated with food intake at 1, 6 and 11 hours, for breakfast, lunch and dinner, respectively. These increases in pH occurred approximately one hour after each meal for all treatments. Following the AM dose of PN 400 on Day 9, the pH increase occurred approximately one hour earlier than the food induced increase in pH (see also Figure 2). After the AM dose of EC E20 + naproxen, the pH increase occurred at least 30 minutes later than PN 400.

The overall pH profiles on Day 9 showed an esomeprazole dose-related effect on intragastric pH beyond the influence of food intake. The effect on intragastric pH profiles was similar between PN 400/E30 and PN 400/E20, with each of these treatments reflecting

a slower return of gastric contents to lower pH levels after food intake than either the PN400/E10 or EC E20 + naproxen treatments.

Results on Day 9 for the ITT population were similar to those from the PP population. The initial Day 9 pH measurements from all treatments showed the mean intragastric pH after an overnight fast was between 2.0 and 3.0, which was higher than the initial pH (between 1.0 and 2.0) on Day 1 (Figure 2).

As shown in Table 4, the primary PD response of this study, *i.e.*, percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 on Day 9, increased with esomeprazole dose in the PN 400 treatments. However, a greater increase in the primary PD response was observed when esomeprazole dose increased from 10 to 20 mg in PN 400, *i.e.*, from 40.9 to 76.5%. There was only a small increase in intragastric pH > 4.0, from 71.4 to 76.5%, as the esomeprazole dose increased from 20 to 30 mg in PN 400.

Secondary Pharmacodynamic Endpoint: Percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 on Day 1

Results from Day 1 are set forth in Table 5. The LS mean percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 ranged from approximately 13% with PN 400/E10 to approximately 28% with PN 400/E30.

Table 5: Percent of Time with Intragastric pH Greater than 4.0 – Day 1– Per-Protocol Population

Treatment	A PN 400/E30	B PN 400/E20	C PN 400/E10	D EC E20 + Naproxen
	N=25	N=25	N=24	N=25
% Time pH >4.0				
Mean (SD)	27.79 (22.63)	20.50 (16.61)	12.81 (11.11)	21.34 (13.63)
Median	19.96	15.26	9.09	16.82
% CV	81	81	87	64
Range	1.77 – 89.61	4.35 – 74.40	3.00 – 53.75	3.16 – 58.20
LS Mean (SE)	27.90 (3.31)	20.58 (3.31)	12.66 (3.35)	21.51 (3.31)
	A vs. D	B vs. D	C vs. D	
LS Mean Difference (SE)	6.39 (3.18)	-0.92 (3.18)	-8.85 (3.22)	--
95% Confidence Interval	0.04 – 12.75	-7.28 – 5.43	-15.28 – -2.42	--

Mean pH data over 24 hours on Day 1 is presented in Figure 2. The pH profiles on Day 1 showed that following an overnight fast, the mean baseline intragastric pH was low, between 1.0 and 2.0, prior to any treatment. There were three pH increases above pH 4.0 throughout the day that were associated with food intake at 1, 6 and 11 hours. The increase in intragastric pH occurred at approximately one hour after each meal for all treatments. There was only a minimal effect of any of the study treatments on intragastric pH, beyond

the effect of food, throughout the first 24 hours on the first day of treatment.

Other Pharmacodynamic Findings

Analysis of percent time of pH > 3.0 and > 5.0 on Day 9 resulted in a similar pattern statistically as that of the primary endpoint of percent time pH > 4 on Day 9 for PP population, with PN 400/E30 and PN 400/E20 showing a greater acid-reducing capacity than EC E20 + naproxen, which had a greater capacity than PN 400/E10, based on LS mean differences and 95% CIs. Analysis results of percent time of pH > 3.0 and > 5.0 on Day 1 were similar as results for the primary endpoint of % time pH > 4 on Day 1 based on the PP population. ITT population results were similar to those of the PP population.

As PN 400 is dosed BID, the individual time intervals corresponding to this dosing regimen, *i.e.*, 0-10 hours and 10-24 hours, were analyzed for percent time intragastric pH >4.0 on Day 9. The results indicated that for the 0-10 hours period, PN 400/E30 treatment resulted in a greater percent time with intragastric pH > 4.0 (84%) than treatment with EC E20 + naproxen (71%). While PN 400/E20 also had a high percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 (79%), the results were not statistically significantly different from the EC E20 + naproxen treatment. With BID dosing, both PN400/E30 and PN400/E20 had greater percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 (71% and 66%, respectively) compared to treatment with EC E20 + naproxen (47%) for the 10-24 hour treatment interval. The PN400/E10 treatment had a lower percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 compared to treatment with EC E20 + naproxen for both the 0-10 hours (52%) and the 10-24 hours (33%) treatment interval.

Pharmacokinetic Endpoints

On Day 1, PK data analysis was performed for esomeprazole and naproxen plasma profiles obtained from 28 subjects completing PN 400/E30, PN 400/E20 and EC E20 + naproxen; and 27 subjects completing PN 400/E10.

On Day 9, PK data analysis was performed for esomeprazole or naproxen plasma profiles from 28 subjects completing PN 400/E30 and EC E20 + naproxen, and 27 subjects completing PN 400/E20 and PN 400/E10.

PK parameters for esomeprazole were determined following the three different PN 400 treatments and PK parameters for naproxen were determined following each of the 4 treatments including peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) on Days 1 and 9; time to peak plasma concentration (t_{max}) on Days 1 and 9; area under the plasma concentration vs time curve from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration (AUC_{0-t}) on Days 1 and 9; and the terminal half-life ($t_{½}$), if possible, following both the AM and PM

doses on Days 1 and 9. In addition, the AUC from time zero (time of dosing) to 10 hours post-AM dose ($AUC_{0-10,am}$) and AUC from time zero (time of dosing) to 14 hours post-PM dose ($AUC_{0-14,pm}$) and a total daily AUC (AUC_{0-24}) were determined on Days 1 and 9. PK parameters for esomeprazole following EC E20 + naproxen included C_{max}, t_{max}, AUC_{0-t}, t½, and AUC_{0-24} following the AM dose on both Days 1 and 9.

Statistical analysis was performed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) to determine the point estimate and 90% CI of the Day 9 to Day 1 ratios for the following parameters for both naproxen and esomeprazole $C_{max,am}$, $C_{max,\ pm}$, $AUC_{0-10,\ am}$, $AUC_{0-14,\ pm}$, and AUC_{0-24}.

Plasma esomeprazole and naproxen concentration vs. time data are listed by treatment, study day and subject. The concentration data were summarized by treatment and study day at each nominal (or scheduled) sampling time using descriptive statistics including mean, SD, %CV, median, minimum and maximum. Plasma concentrations below the LLOQ (*i.e.*, 1 ng/mL for esomeprazole, and 0.10 μg/mL for naproxen) were treated as a zero value for calculating descriptive statistics. The mean/median value at a time point with one or more below the LLOQ (BQL) values was reported unless the mean/median value was below the LLOQ of the assay, in which case the value was reported as BQL. Individual subject plasma concentration vs time curves were plotted against the actual sampling time, and the mean/median plasma concentration vs. time curves were plotted against nominal sampling time by treatment.

The plasma concentration vs. time data of each analyte were subjected to non-compartmental analysis using WinNonlin version 4.1 (Pharsight Corporation, Mountain View, CA). The actual blood sampling time for each sample was used for PK data analysis. For analyte concentrations resulting from BID doses, i.e., esomeprazole in Treatments A, B, and C or naproxen in all 4 treatments, PK analysis was performed separately for the plasma profiles obtained after the AM and PM doses. Thus, the actual post-dose sampling times for concentration vs. time profiles after the PM dose were calculated based on the elapsed time from the actual dosing time of the PM dose.

For PK analysis, plasma concentrations below the LLOQ (BQL value) in individual profiles of each analyte were handled as follows. If the value occurred in a profile during the absorptive phase of the profile, *i.e.*, before the maximum concentration in a profile was observed, it was assigned a value of zero concentration. A single BQL value occurring between two measurable analyte concentrations, not in the absorptive phase of a profile,

was generally omitted. If two or more BQL values occurred in succession, post peak time (or during the elimination phase), the profile was determined to have terminated at the last time point with measurable analyte concentration of the profile.

PK parameters calculated for esomeprazole (following each of the three PN 400 treatments) and for naproxen (following each of the 4 treatments) on Days 1 and 9 included the following: Maximum observed plasma concentration following the AM dose ($C_{max,am}$) and following the PM dose ($C_{max,pm}$); Time to peak plasma concentration following the AM dose ($t_{max,am}$) and following the PM dose ($t_{max,pm}$); Time to the first measurable plasma concentration following the AM dose (tlag,am) and following the PM dose ($t_{lag,pm}$); Area under the plasma concentration vs. time curve (AUC) from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration (tlast) following the AM dose ($AUC_{0-t,am}$) and following the PM dose ($AUC_{0-t,pm}$), calculated using the linear-up and log-down trapezoidal method in WinNonlin; Apparent first-order elimination rate constant ($\lambda_{z,am}$ and $\lambda_{z,pm}$), determined, if data permit, by the slope of the apparent terminal log-linear phase of the plasma drug concentration vs. time curve using at least 3 time points; Apparent plasma half-life (t½), if data permit, determined as $0.693/\lambda_z$ following the AM and PM doses, *i.e.*, $t½_{,am}$ and $t½_{,pm}$, respectively; AUC from time zero (time of AM dosing) to 10 hours after the AM dose ($AUC_{0-10,am}$), if necessary, with extrapolation using $\lambda_{z,am}$ estimate from t_{last} to 10 hrs post the AM dose; AUC from time zero (time of PM dosing) to 14 hours after the PM dose ($AUC_{0-14,pm}$), if necessary, with extrapolation using $\lambda_{z,pm}$ estimate from t_{last} to 14 hrs post PM dose; and Total daily AUC (AUC_{0-24}) from time zero (time of AM dosing) to 24 hours after the AM dose, which is determined as $AUC_{0-10,am} + AUC_{0-14,pm}$.

The PK parameters calculated for esomeprazole following Treatment D after the AM dose on Days 1 and 9 included C_{max}, t_{max}, AUC_{0-t}, t½ and AUC_{0-24}. The same methods as described above were applied.

Descriptive statistics, including mean, SD, %CV, median, minimum and maximum, were calculated for all PK parameters of naproxen and esomeprazole by treatment and study day. Geometric mean and associated 95% confidence interval (CI) were also calculated for all PK parameters, except t_{max}.

Statistical analysis was performed using ANOVA to determine the point estimate and associated 90% CI of the Day 9 to Day 1 ratios for the following parameters: $C_{max,am}$, $C_{max,pm}$, $AUC_{0-10,am}$, $AUC_{0-14,pm}$, and AUC_{0-24} for esomeprazole data in each of the three PN 400 treatments, and for naproxen data in each of the 4 treatments. For

esomeprazole data from Treatment D, the Day 9 to Day 1 ratios for C_{max} and AUC_{0-24} were determined. Natural log-transformed C_{max} and AUC values were used for the analyses, thus geometric least-squares mean ratios for each parameter were determined.

Dose proportionality in the $C_{max,am}$, $C_{max,pm}$, $AUC_{0-10,am}$, $AUC_{0-14,pm}$, and AUC_{0-24} of esomeprazole from the three PN400 treatments was analyzed on Days 1 and 9 separately, using the power model as follows:

$y=a*(dose)^b$

$ln(y)=ln(a) + b*ln(dose)$

where y is the PK parameter value and ln = natural log. The power model included ln(dose) and period as fixed effects and subject as a random effect.

Esomeprazole

Table 6 summarizes the results from the PK analysis that was performed for esomeprazole plasma concentration vs. time data for the 28 subjects who completed PN 400/E30 and EC E20 + naproxen treatments and 27 subjects who completed PN 400/E10 treatment on Days 1 and 9; and 28, and 27 subjects who completed PN 400/E20 treatment on Day 1 and Day 9, respectively.

Table 6: Summary of Esomeprazole Pharmacokinetic Results

Treatment	Day/Dose Time	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*ng/mL)	t½ (hr)
A PN 400/E30	1	487	0.50	591		0.892
	AM	(82)	(0.33-1.50)	(108)		(35)
	1	187	1.50	388	978	1.11
	PM	(132)	(0.33-4.00)	(137)	(115)	(62)
	9	1584	0.50	2779		1.26
	AM	(39)	(0.17-1.50)	(45)		(25)
	9	810	1.00	2066	4911	1.46
	PM	(59)	(0.33-8.00)	(53)	(42)	(34)
B PN 400/E20	1	292	0.50	350		0.846
	AM	(77)	(0.20-1.50)	(113)		(42)
	1	96.6	1.49	206	556	0.994
	PM	(104)	(0.33-3.00)	(141)	(119)	(55)
	9	715	0.50	1216		1.12
	AM	(52)	(0.17-1.50)	(69)		(33)
	9	428	0.75	919	2134	1.31
	PM	(73)	(0.33-3.00)	(84)	(74)	(42)
C PN 400/E10	1	138	0.33	148		0.810
	AM	(71)	(0.17-3.10)	(111)		(48)
	1	35.3	1.50	85.7	237	0.878
	PM	(84)	(0.33-3.00)	(179)	(133)	(50)
	9	278	0.33	368		0.860
	AM	(57)	(0.17-1.00)	(89)		(41)

	9	97.6	1.00	223	602	1.09
	PM	(136)	(0.33-2.00)	(134)	(103)	(47)
D	1	282	1.50	520	580	1.09
EC E20	AM	(66)	(1.00-16.0)	(64)	(67)	(44)
+	9	435	1.50	1046	1212	1.27
naproxen	AM	(48)	(1.00-14.0)	(54)	(47)	(36)

Values are mean (% CV) for all parameters, except for tmax, which are median (range).

Following oral administration of PN 400 on Day 1, esomeprazole concentrations were measurable at 10 minutes after the AM dose, and at 20-30 minutes after the PM dose. Plasma esomeprazole concentrations after the PM dose were lower than those after the AM dose on both days. C_{max} and AUCs of esomeprazole increased nearly dose proportionally after the AM dose on Day 1, but more than dose proportionally after the PM dose on Day 1 and both the AM and PM doses on Day 9. Esomeprazole concentrations were much higher on Day 9 than on Day 1 for each PN 400 treatment. The geometric least-squares mean AUC_{0-24} ratios, Day 9 to Day 1, were 7.13, 4.10, and 2.26 for treatment with PN 400/E30, PN 400/E20, and PN 400/E10, respectively.

Following EC E20 + naproxen treatment, the first measurable esomeprazole concentration was at 0.5 to 1.5 hrs post dose. To evaluate the effect of esomeprazole in the PN400/E20 treatment group with the EC E20 in the EC E20 + naproxen treatment group, the PK parameters from PN400/E20 and EC E20 + naproxen treatment groups were compared. On Day 1, esomeprazole $C_{max,am}$ mean values were approximately equal for the PN400/E20 and EC E20 + naproxen treatments (292 and 282 ng/mL, respectively). The AUC_{0-10} mean values on Day 1 from the PN400/E20 treatment were approximately two-thirds that of the EC E20 + naproxen treatment (350 vs. 520 hr·ng/mL, respectively). By Day 9, however, the esomeprazole AUC_{0-10} for the PN400/E20 treatment group was greater than the EC E20 + naproxen treatment group (1216 vs 1046 hr·ng/mL, respectively) and $C_{max,am}$ from the PN400/E20 treatment group was almost double that of the EC E20 + naproxen treatment group (715 vs 435 ng/mL, respectively).

Mean and median plasma esomeprazole concentration vs time profiles following all four treatments were plotted and the mean plots are presented in Figures 3 and 4. These figures demonstrate that esomeprazole concentrations following AM or PM doses on Day 1 or Day 9 increased with the esomeprazole dose in the PN 400 treatments. Furthermore, on both Days 1 and 9, esomeprazole concentrations after the AM dose were higher than those after the PM dose for each PN 400 treatment. Following EC E20 + naproxen treatment, the mean profiles demonstrate a delayed absorption peak on both Days 1 and 9 as compared to

PN 400. In addition, peak esomeprazole concentrations following EC E20 + naproxen treatment were lower than those following PN 400/E20, especially on Day 9 (about 50% lower).

The pharmacokinetic parameters of esomeprazole following the AM and PM doses on Day 1 and Day 9 of each treatment group are summarized in Tables 7 to 10 below.

Table 7: Summary of Esomeprazole Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment A (PN 400/E30)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-tics	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*ng/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*ng/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 28	Mean	487		588	591		0.892
		%CV	82		109	108		35
		Median	325	0.50	352	354		0.810
		Min	52.1	0.33	59.4	61.0		0.520
		Max	1400	1.50	3087	3087		1.96
1	PM n = 28	Mean	187		385	388	978	1.11
		%CV	132		138	137	115	62
		Median	114	1.50	204	207	579	0.861
		Min	21.1	0.33	37.4	40.3	101	0.593
		Max	1290	4.00	2315	2315	5402	3.89
9	AM n = 28	Mean	1584		2778	2779		1.26
		%CV	39		46	45		25
		Median	1560	0.50	2586	2586		1.18
		Min	384	0.17	874	879		0.83
		Max	3520	1.50	5841	5841		1.80
9	PM n = 28	Mean	810		1990	2066	4911	1.46[a]
		%CV	59		57	53	42	34
		Median	749	1.00	2090	2159	5488	1.38
		Min	13.7	0.33	21.7	342	1519	0.75
		Max	1970	8.00	4956	4956	9770	2.91

[a] n = 27

Table 8: Summary of Esomeprazole Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment B (PN 400/E20)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*ng/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*ng/mL)	t½ (hr)

1	AM n = 28	Mean	292		348	350		0.846
		%CV	77		114	113		42
		Median	209	0.50	245	248		0.696
		Min	47.1	0.20	57.0	58.1		0.434
		Max	916	1.50	1971	1971		1.90
1	PM n = 28	Mean	96.6		203	206	556	0.994
		%CV	104		144	141	119	55
		Median	71.7	1.49	106	108	362	0.844
		Min	16.0	0.33	24.3	28.6	86.7	0.410
		Max	439	3.00	1459	1459	3429	2.82
9	AM n = 27	Mean	715		1215	1216		1.12
		%CV	52		70	69		33
		Median	700	0.50	947	948		1.03
		Min	112	0.17	186	188		0.485
		Max	1300	1.50	2931	2931		1.82
9	PM n = 27	Mean	428		914	919	2134	1.31
		%CV	73		85	84	74	42
		Median	373	0.75	603	642	1727	1.32
		Min	30.5	0.33	59.3	63.5	288	0.686
		Max	1300	3.00	2931	2931	5737	3.10

Table 9: Summary of Esomeprazole Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment C (PN 400/E10)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*ng/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*ng/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 27	Mean	138		143	148		0.810
		%CV	71		115	111		48
		Median	123	0.33	84.8	105		0.703
		Min	24.4	0.17	35.0	36.1		0.454
		Max	370	3.10	882	882		2.21
1	PM n = 27	Mean	35.3		80.6	85.7[b]	237[b]	0.878[a]
		%CV	84		188	179	133	50
		Median	32.1	1.50	41.8	48.7	155	0.734
		Min	4.2	0.33	8.40	9.80	45.9	0.593
		Max	141	3.00	818	818	1700	2.67
9	AM n = 27	Mean	278		366	368		0.860
		%CV	57		90	89		41
		Median	242	0.33	223	224		0.653
		Min	33.0	0.17	41.0	42.6		0.526
		Max	594	1.00	1284	1284		1.85
9	PM n = 27	Mean	97.6		215	223[b]	602[b]	1.09[b]
		%CV	136		137	134	103	47
		Median	42.2	1.00	69.9	76.9	306	0.944
		Min	11.0	0.33	17.3	18.8	63.7	0.370
		Max	554	2.00	1076	1080	2186	2.79

[a.] n = 25; [b.] n = 26

Table 10: Summary of Esomeprazole Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment D (EC E20 + Naproxen)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*ng/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*ng/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 28	Mean	282		567	540[b]	580[b]	1.09[b]
		%CV	66		68	60	67	44
		Median	231	1.50	466	471	471	0.931

		Min	1.1	1.00	143	143	144	0.633
		Max	678	16.0	1777	1359	1777	2.56
9	AM n = 28	Mean	435		1136	1046	1212[b]	1.27[a]
		%CV	48		52	54	47	36
		Median	453	1.50	1056	859	1123	1.16
		Min	98.0	1.00	292	289	429	0.755
		Max	939	14.0	2279	2217	2279	2.46

[a.] n = 25; [b.] n = 26

Naproxen

Table 11 summarizes the results from the PK analysis that was performed for naproxen plasma concentration vs. time data for the 28 subjects who completed PN 400/E30 and EC E20 + naproxen treatments and 27 subjects who completed the PN 400/E10 treatment on Days 1 and 9; and 28, and 27 subjects who completed PN 400/E20 treatment on Day 1 and Day 9, respectively.

Table 11
Naproxen Pharmacokinetic Parameters

Treatment	Day/ Dose Time	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*µg/mL)	t½ (hr)
A PN 400/E30	1	48.1	4.00	259		8.52
	AM	(53)	(2.00-10.0)	(56)		(25)
	1	68.9	14.0	471	730	12.1
	PM	(28)	(0.50-14.0)	(30)	(32)	(30)
	9	80.9	3.00	603		9.17
	AM	(23)	(0.00-8.00)	(21)		(21)
	9	76.2	10.4	648	1251	12.3
	PM	(23)	(0.00-14.0)	(20)	(16)	(27)
B PN 400/E20	1	44.4	4.00	231		8.75
	AM	(68)	(2.00-10.0)	(70)		(33)
	1	71.5	14.0	450	680	11.8
	PM	(26)	(0.00-14.0)	(33)	(36)	(28)
	9	86.2	3.00	607		9.42
	AM	(22)	(0.00-8.05)	(19)		(23)
	9	76.8	10.0	678	1275	11.3
	PM	(18)	(0.00-14.0)	(16)	(15)	(28)
C PN 400/E10	1	57.0	4.00	310		9.24
	AM	(31)	(2.00-10.0)	(35)		(42)
	1	68.6	10.0	508	819	12.7
	PM	(26)	(0.00-14.0)	(29)	(21)	(23)
	9	87.1	2.50	637		9.91
	AM	(21)	(0.00-8.00)	(17)		(26)
	9	78.6	14.0	672	1309	10.5
	PM	(17)	(1.50-14.0)	(19)	(15)	(23)
D EC E20 + naproxen	1	65.5	1.50	409		8.85
	AM	(25)	(0.75-6.00)	(16)		(22)
	1	81.5	1.50	685	1094	15.4
	PM	(14)	(0.50-2.50)	(10)	(12)	(31)

	9	90.0	1.50	617		9.32
	AM	(19)	(0.50-4.00)	(12)		(23)
	9	86.5	1.50	769	1387	14.4
	PM	(13)	(0.75-4.00)	(10)	(10)	(17)

Values are mean (%CV) for all parameters, except for t_{max}, which are median (range).

Following oral administration of PN 400 on Day 1, the first measurable naproxen concentrations occurred at about 2 hrs post AM dose. Plasma exposure to naproxen was comparable among the three PN 400 treatments. Following repeated doses of PN 400, the Day 9 to Day 1 naproxen concentration ratio was consistent with the expected accumulation based on the half-life estimates of naproxen. The variability in naproxen AUC between AM and PM doses was less on Day 9 than on Day 1, reflecting that naproxen levels are approximately at steady state with repeat dosing. C_{max} values were somewhat more variable between the AM and PM doses on Day 1 compared to Day 9, with mean AM levels being lower than mean PM levels for all treatments on Day 1 and mean AM levels slightly higher than mean PM levels for all treatments on Day 9.

Following the first (AM) dose of Treatment D on Day 1, plasma naproxen concentrations were measurable in all subjects at the first sampling time, *i.e.*, 10 minutes post-dose and then up to 24 hours post AM dose (or 14 hours post PM dose), demonstrating typical performance of non-enteric coated naproxen.

Mean and median plasma naproxen concentration vs time profiles following all 4 treatments are presented in Figures 5 and 6.

The PK parameters of naproxen following administration of the AM and PM doses on Day 1 and Day 9 of each treatment are summarized in Tables 12 to 15 below.

Table 12: Summary of Naproxen Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment A (PN 400/E30)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*µg/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*µg/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 28	Mean	48.1		259	259		8.52[a]
		%CV	53		56	56		25
		Median	53.2	4.00	339	339		7.86
		Min	0.0	2.00	0.0	0.0		6.07
		Max	82.5	10.0	428	428		13.8
1	PM n = 28	Mean	68.9		471	471	730	12.1[b]
		%CV	28		30	30	32	30
		Median	68.5	14.0	464	464	780	10.8
		Min	31.9	0.50	190	190	190	7.16
		Max	114	14.0	716	716	1092	19.2
9	AM n = 28	Mean	80.9		603	603		9.17[c]
		%CV	23		21	21		21
		Median	80.0	3.00	568	568		9.31

		Min	44.5	0.00	345	345		5.32
		Max	139	8.00	944	944		13.2
9	PM n = 28	Mean	76.2		648	648	1251	12.3[d]
		%CV	23		20	20	16	27
		Median	69.7	10.4	635	635	1269	12.0
		Min	53.9	0.00	384	384	729	6.56
		Max	127	14.0	932	932	1744	22.1

[a] n = 17; [b] n = 21; [c] n = 26; [d] n = 24.

Table 13: Summary of Naproxen Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment B (PN 400/E20)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*µg/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*µg/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 28	Mean	44.4		231	231		8.75[a]
		%CV	68		70	70		33
		Median	50.1	4.00	291	291		7.72
		Min	0.00	2.00	0.00	0.0		6.07
		Max	94.4	10.0	490	490		15.1
1	PM n = 28	Mean	71.5		450	450	680	11.8[b]
		%CV	26		33	33	36	28
		Median	69.4	14.0	443	443	756	10.9
		Min	45.1	0.00	159	157	157	6.70
		Max	110	14.0	831	831	977	18.7
9	AM n = 27	Mean	86.2		607	607		9.42[b]
		%CV	22		19	19		23
		Median	85.1	3.00	577	577		8.65
		Min	53.5	0.00	378	378		5.48
		Max	137	8.05	856	856		13.9
9	PM n = 27	Mean	76.8		668	678	1275	11.3[c]
		%CV	18		16	16	15	28
		Median	73.0	10.0	661	661	1306	10.9
		Min	51.2	0.00	458	458	939	7.97
		Max	116	14.0	847	847	1659	19.2

[a] n = 15, [b] n = 22, [c] n = 20

Table 14: Summary of Naproxen Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment C (PN 400/E10)

Day	Dose Time	Statis-Tics	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*µg/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*µg/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 27	Mean	57.0		310	310		9.24[a]
		%CV	31		35	35		42
		Median	60.3	4.00	339	339		7.88
		Min	6.90	2.00	50.5	50.5		3.36
		Max	88.2	10.0	488	488		21.8
1	PM n = 27	Mean	68.6		508	508	819	12.7[b]
		%CV	26		29	29	21	23
		Median	70.0	10.0	512	512	805	12.5
		Min	30.0	0.00	271	271	454	6.93
		Max	97.2	14.0	791	791	1225	20.2
9	AM n = 27	Mean	87.1		637	637		9.91[c]
		%CV	21		17	17		26
		Median	83.9	2.50	654	654		9.29

		Min	45.0	0.00	332	332		6.88
		Max	120	8.00	787	787		16.1
9	PM n = 27	Mean	78.6		672	672	1309	10.5[b]
		%CV	17		19	19	15	23
		Median	73.5	14.0	687	687	1328	9.98
		Min	62.4	1.50	349	349	681	7.17
		Max	109	14.0	953	953	1647	16.1

[a] n = 22; [b] n = 25; [c] n = 23.

Table 15: Summary of Naproxen Pharmacokinetic Parameters by Study Day and Dose Time for Treatment D (EC E20 + Naproxen)

Day	Dose Time	Statistics	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*µg/mL)	$AUC_{0-10,am}$ or $AUC_{0-14,pm}$ (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-24} (hr*µg/mL)	t½ (hr)
1	AM n = 28	Mean	65.5		409	409		8.85[a]
		%CV	25		16	16		22
		Median	67.0	1.50	411	411		8.44
		Min	39.9	0.75	293	293		6.17
		Max	113	6.00	562	562		14.1
1	PM n = 28	Mean	81.5		685	685	1094	15.4
		%CV	14		10	10	12	31
		Median	80.8	1.50	662	662	1068	14.7
		Min	58.2	0.50	592	592	909	9.04
		Max	107	2.50	855	855	1398	32.8
9	AM n = 28	Mean	90.0		617	617		9.32
		%CV	19		12	12		23
		Median	87.0	1.50	619	619		9.39
		Min	59.4	0.50	493	493		5.77
		Max	126	4.00	793	793		15.4
9	PM n = 28	Mean	86.5		769	769	1387	14.4
		%CV	13		10	10	10	17
		Median	89.6	1.50	760	760	1371	14.7
		Min	67.3	0.75	619	619	1130	10.5
		Max	123	4.00	930	930	1723	21.1

[a] n = 27.

Drug Concentrations or Pharmacokinetics in Relation to Pharmacodynamic Measurements

As shown in Figure 7, the relationship between the mean total plasma exposure to esomeprazole, *i.e.*, AUC_{0-24} on Day 9 (representing steady-state exposure), and the mean percent time with intragastric pH > 4.0 on Day 9 (the primary PD endpoint) can be described by a typical pharmacological maximal response (E_{max}) model defined below:

Effect = (E_{max} * AUC_{0-24})/(EC50 + AUC_{0-24}), where

Effect = Mean percent time intragastric pH > 4.0 on Day 9 (assuming zero time intragastric pH > 4.0 when esomeprazole AUC_{0-24} equals zero)

E_{max} = Maximal Effect

EC50 = Plasma mean AUC_{0-24} required to produce 50% of the Maximal Effect

The E_{max} was estimated to be 90.4% of time with intragastric pH > 4.0 over the daily interval at steady state. The AUC_{0-24} value required to achieve half (or 50%) of the maximal response was estimated to be 713 hr*ng/mL. Following PN 400/E20, the PD response had achieved about 80% of the maximal response, which was only slightly less than that (85% of E_{max}) achieved by PN 400/E30.

Repeat doses of PN 400/E30 and PN 400/E20 resulted in faster onset of increased intragastric pH (at about 1 hour post dose) than EC E20 + naproxen, which was at about 1.5 hours post-dose (Figure 1).

As shown in the Figure 8A, the release of naproxen from PN 400 occurred 1.5 to 2 hours post AM dose. Before naproxen was absorbed to peak concentrations following PN 400 treatment, intragastric pH had already achieved high levels, well above pH 4.0 (Figure 8A). In fact, with the BID regimen of PN 400/E20, given 1 hour before a meal, the intragastric pH was maintained at above 4.0 for greater than 70% of time over a 24-hour period, which would encompass any rise in plasma naproxen concentrations throughout the day.

In contrast, EC E20 + naproxen produced peak naproxen concentrations that preceded the increase in intragastric pH (Figure 8B). In fact, peak naproxen concentrations occurred 1 to 2 hours post dose, which coincided with the time period when intragastric pH was lowest (Figure 8B).

Example 2

A randomized, open-label, 4-way crossover study was conducted to evaluate naproxen and esomeprazole plasma levels in healthy subjects following oral administration of PN 400, enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg plus enteric-coated esomeprazole 20 mg, enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg alone, and enteric-coated esomeprazole 20 mg alone. The study consisted of 4 single-dose treatment periods with a washout period of at least 12 days between periods. Subjects received a single dose of each of the following four treatments following a 10-hour overnight fast in a crossover fashion based on a randomization schedule with balanced treatment sequences.

Treatment	Study Drug
A	PN 400 (delayed-release naproxen 500 mg/immediate-release esomeprazole 20 mg) tablet
B	EC naproxen (EC NAPROSYN®) 500 mg tablet plus EC esomeprazole (NEXIUM®) 20 mg capsule
C	EC naproxen 500 mg tablet (EC NAPROSYN®)
D	EC esomeprazole 20 mg capsule (NEXIUM®)

EC = enteric-coated

Plasma concentration vs. time profiles of naproxen were obtained from the analysis of frequent blood samples taken over a 72-hour post-dose period following each treatment. Plasma concentration vs. time profiles of esomeprazole were obtained from the analysis of blood samples taken over a 12-hour post-dose period following Treatment A (PN 400), Treatment B (EC naproxen + EC esomeprazole), and Treatment D (EC esomeprazole alone).

Pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters of naproxen and esomeprazole were determined from the plasma concentration vs. time profiles using noncompartmental methods. PK parameters included maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}), time to maximum concentration (t_{max}), lag time in absorption (t_{lag}), area under the plasma concentration vs. time curve from time zero to the last time point with measurable drug concentration (AUC_{0-t}), AUC from time zero with extrapolation to infinity (AUC_{0-inf}), percentage of the AUC_{0-inf} that is extrapolated from the last time point with measurable drug concentration to infinity ($\%AUC_{extrap}$), and terminal elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$).

The relative bioavailability of esomeprazole from PN 400 was determined by the ratios of AUC_{0-t}, AUC_{0-inf}, and C_{max} of esomeprazole for Treatment A vs. Treatment B, and Treatment A vs. Treatment D. The relative bioavailability of naproxen from PN 400 was determined by the ratios of AUC_{0-t}, AUC_{0-inf}, and C_{max} of naproxen for Treatment A vs. Treatment B, and Treatment A vs. Treatment C. The ratios were estimated from the analysis of variance (ANOVA) of $\log_e$-transformed parameters with sequence, period, and treatment as fixed effects, and subject within sequence as a random effect. The geometric least-squares mean (GLSM) ratios between treatments and the associated 90% confidence intervals for AUCs and C_{max} for each treatment comparison were calculated.

A total of forty subjects were enrolled and 37 subjects completed the study as planned, receiving all four treatments. Plasma concentration-time profiles were available

from 38, 39, 39, and 39 subjects completing Treatments A, B, C, and D, respectively. Five subjects had measurable naproxen concentrations (> 0.1 μg/mL) in pre-dose plasma samples during 1 or 3 dose periods. Most of the measurable pre-dose concentrations were less than 5% of the maximum concentration in each profile, and were included in the PK analysis because they would have little impact on the PK parameter estimates. However, two subjects (Subjects 1003 and 1018) had measurable pre-dose naproxen concentrations in 1 or all 3 dose periods that were > 5% of the maximum concentration of the profile. In these two subjects, naproxen concentration at each time point in each profile was corrected by subtracting the residual concentration (calculated based on the decay curve from time zero (pre-dose) concentration) from the measured concentration. Subsequently, PK data analysis was based on the corrected naproxen concentrations in these two subjects.

In general, plasma naproxen concentrations were not measurable at sampling times before 2 hours post dose in the majority of subjects receiving Treatment A, or before 1.5 hours post dose in the majority of subjects receiving Treatment B or C. Plasma naproxen concentrations were measurable up to 72 hours post dose in all subjects after each treatment. All three treatments show very similar mean/median plasma naproxen profiles, with Treatment A (PN 400) showing slightly right-shifted (delayed) profiles (*see* Figure 9).

Except in one subject in one dose period, none of the pre-dose plasma samples had quantifiable esomeprazole concentrations (all were <1 ng/mL). Following Treatment A (PN 400), plasma esomeprazole concentrations appeared rapidly in plasma, generally at the first sampling time (10 minutes post dose) in 32 out of 38 subjects. Plasma esomeprazole concentrations were measurable in all subjects at 20 minutes post dose of Treatment A. However, following Treatment B or D, plasma esomeprazole concentrations were generally not measurable until 0.75 to 1.0 hour post dose. The duration for measurable esomeprazole concentrations in plasma was about 8 hours following Treatment A, and up to 10-11 hours post dose following Treatment B or D.

The 8-hour post-dose sample collected during Period 4 for Subject 1036 (receiving Treatment B) and Subject 1037 (receiving Treatment D) appeared to have been inadvertently switched. However, this potential sample switch could not be verified, thus PK data analysis was performed by including and excluding this time point in both subjects. Treatment A (PN 400) showed immediate-release characteristics in esomeprazole plasma

profile, and Treatments B and D showed delayed-release characteristics in esomeprazole plasma profile with right-shifted curves (*see* Figure 10).

A summary of naproxen and esomeprazol PK parameters by treatment are provided in Tables 16 and 17 below.

Table 16: Summary of Naproxen PK Parameters by Treatment

Treatment	Statistics	C_{max} (µg/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	t_{lag} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*µg/mL)	AUC_{0-inf} (hr*µg/mL)	$t_{½}$ (hr)
A	Mean	66.9	6.15	1.98	1226	1326	18.9
PN 400	%CV	22	58	53	15	17	14
	Median	66.2	5.25	1.50	1232	1324	19.0
(N = 38)	Min	37.8	2.50	0.00	664	683	9.20
	Max	97.0	20.2	5.00	1644	1804	26.8
B	Mean	74.3	4.95	1.22	1263	1374	19.6
EC Naproxen	%CV	22	96	88	15	17	14
+ EC Eso	Median	74.0	3.50	1.00	1254	1359	18.8
	Min	38.7	0.75	0.00	908	985	13.1
(N = 39)	Max	114	24.0	4.00	1863	2107	26.1
C	Mean	75.3	4.99	1.69	1266	1375	19.4
EC Naproxen	%CV	20	85	69	15	16	11
	Median	77.7	4.00	1.50	1245	1345	19.6
	Min	35.2	1.50	0.00	882	894	12.4
(N = 39)	Max	96.0	24.0	4.50	1800	2028	26.2

Eso = esomeprazole

Table 17: Summary of Esomeprazole PK Parameters by Treatment

Treatment	Statistics	C_{max} (ng/mL)	t_{max} (hr)	t_{lag} (hr)	AUC_{0-t} (hr*ng/mL)	AUC_{0-inf} (hr*ng/mL)	$t_{½}$ (hr)
A	Mean	425	0.51	0.03	465	467	0.971
PN400	%CV	81	49	234	91	91	45
	Median	267	0.45	0.00	301	302	0.881
(N = 38)	Min	58.1	0.33	0.00	104	107	0.600
	Max	1330	1.50	0.17	1940	1949	3.67
B	Mean	432	2.50	0.91	801	803	0.945
EC Naproxen	%CV	48	54	134	79	79	49
+ EC Eso	Median	369	2.50	0.75	626	628	0.873
	Min	1.10	1.00	0.00	230	233	0.530
(N = 39)	Max	897	9.00	8.00	3840	3871	3.29
D	Mean	455	2.43	0.87	806	815	0.936
EC	%CV	40	34	47	78	81	44
Esomeprazole	Median	425	2.50	0.75	607	609	0.915
(N = 39)	Min	176	0.75	0.33	279	280	0.538
	Max	915	4.50	2.00	3707	3924	2.86

Eso = esomeprazole

Following oral administration of PN 400, esomeprazole was rapidly absorbed without any lag time. As expected, there was delayed absorption of esomeprazole following administration of EC esomeprazole alone or in combination with EC naproxen. Median t_{max} of esomeprazole following administration of EC esomeprazole formulation was about 2 hours longer than that after administration of PN 400 containing an immediate-release formulation of esomeprazole. There was large intersubject variability in esomeprazole C_{max} and AUC values, but not $t_{1/2}$ values for all treatments.

Statistical analysis results of bioavailability parameters of naproxen and esomeprazole for all treatment comparisons are presented in Tables 18 through 20 below.

Table 18: Summary of Statistical Analysis of Bioavailability Parameters of Naproxen between Treatments (All Subjects)

	Treatment Comparison GLSM Ratio (90 % Confidence Interval)		
PK Parameter	**A/C**	**B/C**	**A/B**
$AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ (hr*µg/mL)	0.968 (0.937, 1.000)	1.000 (0.968, 1.032)	0.968 (0.938, 1.000)
$AUC_{0\text{-}t}$ (hr*µg/mL)	0.971 (0.942, 1.001)	0.999 (0.970, 1.029)	0.972 (0.943, 1.002)
C_{max} (µg/mL)	0.886 (0.823, 0.954)	0.984 (0.915, 1.058)	0.901 (0.837, 0.970)

GLSM = geometric least square mean

Similar results were obtained by excluding the two subjects (1003 and 1018) with pre-dose naproxen concentrations >5% of C_{max} of the profile as can be seen in Table 19 below.

Table 19: Summary of Statistical Analysis of Bioavailability Parameters of Naproxen between Treatments (excluding Subjects 1003 and 1018))

	Treatment Comparison GLSM Ratio (90 % Confidence Interval)		
PK Parameter	**A/C**	**B/C**	**A/B**
$AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ (hr*µg/mL)	0.985 (0.960, 1.011)	1.003 (0.978, 1.029)	0.981 (0.956, 1.007)
$AUC_{0\text{-}t}$ (hr*µg/mL)	0.986 (0.963, 1.009)	1.001 (0.978, 1.024)	0.985 (0.962, 1.009)
C_{max} (µg/mL)	0.855 (0.803, 0.911)	0.966 (0.907, 1.028)	0.886 (0.832, 0.944)

GLSM = geometric least square mean

Table 20: Summary of Statistical Analysis of Bioavailability Parameters of Esomeprazole between Treatments

	Treatment Comparison GLSM Ratio (90 % Confidence Interval)		
PK Parameter	**A/D**	**B/D**	**A/B**
$AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ (hr*ng/mL)	0.492 (0.424, 0.571)	0.979 (0.843, 1.14)	0.502 (0.432, 0.585)
$AUC_{0\text{-}t}$ (hr*ng/mL)	0.491 (0.422, 0.570)	0.981 (0.843, 1.14)	0.500 (0.429, 0.583)
C_{max} (ng/mL)	0.715 (0.536, 0.955)	0.826 (0.620, 1.10)	0.866 (0.648, 1.16)

GLSM = geometric least square mean

The 90% confidence interval (CI) of the geometric least squares mean (GLSM) ratio of $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ and C_{max} of naproxen for all treatment comparisons fell within the 0.80 to 1.25 limits, indicating bioequivalence between treatments in terms of naproxen bioavailability parameters.

The 90% CI of the GLSM ratio (Test/Reference) of $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ of esomeprazole for Treatment B vs. Treatment D fell within the 0.80 to 1.25 limits, indicating that esomeprazole AUC values for the two treatments with EC esomeprazole (with or without concomitant naproxen) are bioequivalent. Based on the point estimates and 90% CI, $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ of esomeprazole for Treatment A (immediate-release esomeprazole in PN 400) were about 50% lower than those of Treatment B or D (i.e., EC esomeprazole) after a single dose administration.

An overview of aderse events (AE) is displayed Table 21 below. There were no serious adverse evendts (SAEs) or withdrawals due to AEs. The incidence of all AEs ranged from 3% with Treatment C to 15% with Treatment B. The most frequent AEs included dizziness, headache, and nausea or pharyngolaryngeal pain. Most of the AEs were mild in severity.

Table 21: Overview of Adverse Events – Safety Population

Treatment	A PN 400 N = 38	B EC Nap + EC Eso N = 39	C EC Nap N = 39	D EC Eso N = 39
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Subjects with at least 1 adverse event	3 (8)	6 (15)	1 (3)	2 (5)
Subjects with at least 1 serious adverse vent	0	0	0	0
Deaths	0	0	0	0
Withdrawals due to adverse events	0	0	0	0

EC = enteric-coated; Nap = naproxen; Eso = esomeprazole
A = PN 400 = naproxen 500 mg /esomeprazole 20 mg
B = EC Nap + EC Eso = enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg + enteric-coated esomeprazole 20 mg
C = EC Nap = enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg
D = EC Eso = enteric-coated esomeprazole 20 mg

AE data are summarized by system organ class (SOC) and provided in Table 22 below. The overall occurrence rate was notably greater with Treatment B (15%) than with the other treatments (3-8%). The only AEs occurring in more than 1 subject per treatment period were dizziness, which occurred in 2 subjects (5%) with Treatment B; headache, which occurred in 2 subjects with Treatment B; and pharyngolaryngeal pain, which occurred in 3 subjects (8%) with Treatment B.

Table 22: Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events – Safety Population

System Organ Class Adverse Event	A PN 400	B EC Nap + EC Eso	C EC Nap	D EC Eso
	N=38	N=39	N=39	N=39
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Subjects with at least 1 adverse event	3 (8)	6 (15)	1 (3)	2 (5)
Nervous system disorders	2 (5)	3 (8)	0	2 (5)
Dizziness	1 (3)	2 (5)	0	1 (3)
Headache	0	2 (5)	0	1 (3)
Syncope	1 (3)	0	0	0
General disorders and administration site conditions	1 (3)	1 (3)	1 (3)	0
Chest discomfort	0	0	1 (3)	0
Cyst	1 (3)	0	0	0
Pain	0	1 (3)	0	0
Pyrexia	0	1 (3)	0	0
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	0	3 (8)	0	0
Pharyngolaryngeal pain	0	3 (8)	0	0
Cough	0	1 (3)	0	0
Gastrointestinal disorders	0	1 (3)	0	0
Nausea	0	1 (3)	0	0
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	1 (3)	0	0	0
Head Injury	1 (3)	0	0	0

EC = enteric-coated; Nap = naproxen; Eso = esomeprazole
A = PN 400 = naproxen 500 mg / esomeprazole 20 mg
B = EC Nap + EC Eso = enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg + enteric-coated esomeprazole 20 mg
C = EC Nap = enteric-coated naproxen 500 mg
D = EC Eso = enteric-coated esomeprazole 20

The only AEs assessed as treatment-related by the investigator were nausea, dizziness and headache in one subject and headache and pyrexia in another subject, each occurring during Treatment B.

What is Claimed is:

1. Use of naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form, wherein said esomeprazole, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is released from said unit dose form at a pH of from about 0 or greater, wherein a first unit dose form is administered as an AM dose and a second unit dose form is administered about 10 hours later as a PM dose to target:

   i) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for naproxen where:

      a) the AM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 81 μg/mL and a median time to maximum concentration (T_{max}) of from about 2.5 to about 4 hours, and

      b) the PM dose has a mean C_{max} of about 76.2 μg/mL and a median T_{max} of from about 10 to about 14 hours; and

   ii) a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile for esomeprazole where:

      a) the AM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) of about 850 hr*μg/mL, and

      b) the PM dose has a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) of about 650 hr*μg/mL.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein:

   a) the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 86.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and

   c) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.8 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10 hours.

3. The use according to claim 1, wherein:

   a) the mean C_{max} for said AM dose of naproxen is about 80.9 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 3.0 hours; and

b) the mean C_{max} for said PM dose is about 76.2 μg/mL and said median T_{max} is about 10.4 hours.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein

a) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 1216 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 919 hr*μg/mL.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein

a) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the AM dose is administered to about 10 hours after the AM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}10,am}$) for said AM dose of esomeprazole is about 2779 hr*μg/mL, and

b) the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when the PM dose is administered to about 14 hours after the PM dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}14,pm}$) for said PM dose of esomeprazole is about 2066 hr*μg/mL.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein said pharmaceutical composition further targets a pharmacokinetic (pk) profile having a mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is about 1500 hr*μg/mL.

7. The use according to claim 6, wherein the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered ($AUC_{0\text{-}24}$) for esomeprazole is about 2000 hr*μg/mL.

8. The use according to claim 6, wherein the mean area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero when first dose is administered to about 24 hours after the first dose is administered (AUC_{0-24}) for esomeprazole is about 4911 hr*μg/mL.

9. The use according to any one of claims 1-8, wherein the pharmaceutical composition further targets a mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state of at least about 41%.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 60%.

11. The use according to claim 9, wherein the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 71%.

12. The use according to claim 9, wherein the mean % time at which intragastric pH remains at about 4.0 or greater for about a 24 hour period after reaching steady state is at least about 77%.

13. The use according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein said pharmaceutical composition in unit dose form comprises about 500 mg of said naproxen and about 20mg of said esomeprazole.

14. The use according to any one of claims 1-13, wherein said unit dose form is administered for a period of at least about 6 days.

15. The use according to any one of claims 1-14, wherein said unit dose form is administered for a period of at least about 9 days.

16. The use according to any one of claims 1-15, wherein said patient in need thereof is being treated for a disease or disorder selected from pain and inflammation.

17. The use according to any one of claims 1-15, wherein said patient in need thereof is being treated for osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, or a combination thereof.

18. The use according to any one of claim 1-17, wherein said unit dose form is a multilayer tablet comprising at least one core and at least a first layer and a second layer, wherein:

i) said core comprises naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

ii) said first layer is a coating that at least begins to release the naproxen, or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, when the pH of the surrounding medium is about 3.5 or greater; and

iii) said second layer comprises esomeprazole, wherein said esomeprazole is released at a pH of from about 0 or greater.

19. The use according to claim 18, wherein said esomeprazole is released at a pH of from about 0 to about 2.

20. The use according to any one of claims 18 or 19, wherein said multi-layer tablet is substantially free of sodium bicarbonate.