

CLAIMS

1. An isolated or synthetic peptide consisting of 5-30 amino acids for use in the treatment of an acute systemic inflammatory disease, in which the peptide is provided with at least one peptide motif capable of agonizing an elastin receptor so as to initiate the activity typically produced by binding of human C-peptide to a human elastin receptor, in which the peptide has at least one human elastin receptor binding motif GxxPG and has at least one amino acid Q, in which G represents the one-letter code for the amino acid glycine, P for the amino acid proline, Q for the amino acid glutamine and x for any amino acid.
2. A peptide for use according to Claim 1, in which the peptide consists of 5-20 amino acids.
3. A peptide for use according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the peptide consists of 5-15 amino acids.
4. A peptide for use according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the peptide consists of 5-12 amino acids.
5. A peptide for use according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the peptide consists of 5-9 amino acids.
6. A peptide according to Claim 1, consisting of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 14, 15, 16, 21, 25, 175, 3, 22, 23, 26, 176, 24, 27, 28, 29, 43, 93, and 94.
7. A peptide according to Claim 6, consisting of any one of SEQ ID NOs: 14, 15, 16, 21, 25, 175, 3, 22, 23, 26, 176, 24, 27, 28, 29, 43, 93, and 94.
8. A peptide according to Claim 1, being a retro-inverso variant peptide composed of D-amino acids assembled in a reverse order from that of the parent L-sequence peptides listed under SEQ ID NOs: 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 14, 15, 16, 21, 25, 175, 3, 22, 23, 26, 176, 24, 27, 28, 29, 43, 93, and 94.
9. A peptide according to Claim 1, in which the GxxPG motif is repeated at least twice, preferably thrice, optionally wherein said repeats are separated by a linker comprising one or more amino acids.