Claims

1. Use of an FGF-18 compound for for the manufacturing of a medicament for the treatment of a cartilage disorder wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered at least three times per treatment cycle, said administrations being separated by about at least 3, 4 or 5 weeks, wherein said cartilage disorder is osteoarthritis.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein said administrations are separated by about 3 weeks or by about 4 weeks.

3. The use according to claim 1, wherein said administrations are separated by about 1 month.

4. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered at least 3 times or at least 4 times per treatment cycle.

5. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein treatment cycles are repeated after 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 months.

6. The use according to any of the preceding claims, which comprises 1, 2, or 3 treatment cycles per year.

7. The FGF use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered intra-articularly.

8. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered at a dose of 3-300 mcg, or preferably 10-200 mcg, or more preferably 30-150 mcg, or even more preferably 30-120 mcg per single intra-articular administration.

9. The use according to claim 8, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered at a dose of about 3, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 90, 100, 120, 150, 180, 200, 240 or 300 mcg per single intra-articular administration of the FGF-18 compound.

10. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the cartilage is articular cartilage.

11. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is selected from the group consisting of:

a) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the human FGF-18 mature form comprising residues 28-207 of SEQ ID NO:1, or

b) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

12. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered together with an anti-inflammatory drug.

13. The use according to claim 12, wherein the anti-inflammatory drug is anakinra or diclofenac.

14. The use according to claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the anti-inflammatory drug is to be administered at a dose of 0.001-500 mg, or preferably 0.1-250 mg, or more preferably 0.5-150 mg per single administration.

15. The use according to claim 14, wherein the anti-inflammatory drug is to be administered at a dose of 0.03, 0.1, 0.25, 0.3, 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 150, 200, 250 or 300 mg per single administration

16. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered 3 times per treatment cycle, said administrations being separated by about 3 weeks.

17. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered 3 times per treatment cycle, said administrations being separated by about 4 weeks.

18. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the FGF-18 compound is to be administered once monthly for 3 consecutive months.