Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention is concerned with a controlled release formulation for the simultaneous delivery of levodopa and carbidopa in the treatment of parkinsonism whereby the adverse reactions and inadequacies often experienced with the administration of standard carbidopa/levodopa combinations are minimized.

SINEMET® (Merck & Co. Inc., Rahway, N.J.) is the registered trademark for a therapeutic agent useful in the treatment of idiopathic Parkinsonism. It is a combination of levodopa and carbidopa and is provided in tablets of 10 mg carbidopa/100 mg of levodopa; 25 mg of carbidopa/250 mg of levodopa; and 25 mg of carbidopa/100 mg of levodopa. The usual dose is 3 to 4 tablets daily.

Before SINEMET was introduced to the market in 1975, parkinsonism was treated with levodopa by itself. Large doses of levodopa were necessary to adequately control the Parkinson syndrome and severe adverse reactions, especially emesis, were experienced. To minimize these adverse reactions attempts were made to deliver levodopa in a sustained release fashion. In fact there was a product called Brocadopa Temtabs. Several studies failed to show any advantage of the sustained release formulation over a standard preparation. See Eckstein et al., The Lancet, February 24, 1973, page 431 which states at 432, "for the majority of parkinsonians in our study sustained-release levodopa offered no definite advantage over a standard preparation". Also curzon et al., The Lancet, April 7, 1973, page 781, states, "These results suggest there is no practical advantage to be gained by the use of an oral sustained-release preparation of levodopa".

Therapy with SINEMET is widely accepted as the cornerstone in treating idiopathic Parkinson's disease. However, "wearing-off" and "on-off" phenomena have emerged as major problems in the long-term treatment of Parkinson's disease. After two to three years, many patients begin to experience oscillating motor fluctuations which become increasingly disabling. The essential feature is a change from mobility to immobility, which may occur many times a day. Predictable waning of therapeutic effects, following each dose of SINEMET, is known as "wearing-off" and may first occur during stage II-III of the disease. Such response fluctuations occur in 15 to 40% of patients after two to three years of treatment, and in a greater percentage with longer duration of illness. The fluctuations in levodopa levels which accompany SINEMET treatment may in themselves contribute to the development of clinical oscillations.

The clinical manifestations of "on-off" include rapid and unpredictable swings from mobility to immobility. "On" periods can usually be correlated with high or rising plasma levodopa levels and are often associated with distinct, abnormal involuntary movements (dose-related dyskinesias), while "off" periods are commonly but not invariably associated with low or falling plasma-levodopa levels. The relation of "off" periods to low plasma levodopa levels and the observation that the administration of apomorphine during an "off" period may restore function suggests that most such periods are due to cerebral dopamine deficiency. Frequent dosage administration helps to alleviate oscillating clinical responses but dyskinesias and bradykinetic episodes may still occur.

Intravenous levodopa has been used to provide stable plasma levels of 2000 to 5000 ng/ml in advanced parkinsonian patients. This procedure reduces motor oscillations, but optimal response in some patients still include either tremor and bradykinesia or mobility with dyskinesia. High protein meals cause a decline in response without affecting plasma levodopa levels, presumably by inhibiting transport of levodopa into the brain.

The above considerations indicate that a dosage preparation of SINEMET possessing less rapid dissolution properties and providing a more even plasma level profile of levodopa should be efficacious in alleviating some but not all oscillating therapeutic responses.

If the development of clinical fluctuations is promoted by oscillating levodopa levels, a controlled release preparation may also help to prevent the emergence of "wearing-off" and "on-off" phenomena.

Now, with the present invention there is provided a controlled release form of the combination of carbidopa/levodopa designed to obviate or at least alleviate problems associated with the standard combination therapy. Dyskinesias and other central nervous system side effects, and gastrointestinal side effects may be reduced in patients sensitive to high plasma levodopa levels. Patients with oscillating symptoms should respond to the more constant plasma levodopa levels with a more even clinical response. Furthermore, controlled release SINEMET is expected to represent a more convenient dosage form (i.e., allowing for less frequent medication) for many patients who require standard SINEMET four or more times a day. A twice-daily dosage regimen may also be feasible in some patients.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The novel controlled release tablet of carbidopa/levodopa of this invention is a matrix or monolithic drug delivery system containing carbidopa and levodopa as active ingredients. The system consists of the two drugs, uniformly dispersed in a polymer vehicle at a concentration that is greater than either drug solubility in the polymer vehicle which is either a single or a combination of polymers.

The novel delivery system provides slow release of both drug components either by erosion or by a diffusion controlled mechanism, depending on the particular polymer vehicle.

Release of drug by erosion occurs by slow disintegration of the tablet surface. Release of drug by diffusion occurs either through the space between the macromolecular polymer chains or through a porous network filled with aqueous medium. Optimum erosion or diffusion conditions can be achieved by controlling the crystalline phase porous structure, degree of swelling, polymer type, polymer ratio, drug concentration and other salient parameters.

Figure 1, is a cross-section of a tablet-shaped homogeneous polymer matrix showing the drug components, 1, homogeneously dispersed in the matrix.

Figure 2, is a schematic representation of the same polymer matrix, 1, after some of the drug has been delivered by diffusion by entry of liquids into the tortuous microporous channels, 2, followed by exit of drug solution through the same tortuous path. This matrix remains essentially intact while delivering its drug content.

Figure 3, is a cross-section of a schematic representation of the polymer matrix, 1, after some of the drug has been delivered by erosion by liquids whereby polymer, 1, and active ingredients, 2, are dispersed in the fluid as solute or suspensoid.

Figure 3a, is a schematic representation of the polymer matrix, 1, after essentially all of the drug, 2, has been delivered by erosion. This matrix completely disintegrates while delivering its drug content.

The polymer vehicle is a mono-polymer or co-polymer or combinaations theeof and are selected from: water soluble polymers such as hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch, methyl cellulose; and less water-soluble polymers such as polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, ethyl cellulose and the like. The preferred vehicle is a combination of the water soluble polymer, hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble co-polymeer of polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid.

Other components of the novel formulation are optional dyes and tablet lubricants such as: metallic salts of acids including aluminum stearate, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, sodium stearate, and zinc stearate; fatty acids, hydrocarbons and fatty alcohols including stearic acid, palmitic acid, liquid paraffin, stearyl alcohol, and palmytic alcohol; fatty acid esters including glyceryl monostearate, glyceryl (mono- and di-) stearate, triglycerides, glyceryl (palmytic-stearic) ester, sorbitan monostearate, saccharose monostearate, sacharose monopalmitate, and sodium stearyl fumarate; alkyl sulfates, including sodium lauryl sulfate, and magnesiumlauryl sulfate; polymers including polyethylene glycols, polyoxyethylene glycols, and polytetrafluoroethylene (Teflon); and inorganic materials such as talc. The preferred tablet lubricant is magnesium stearate.

In a typical formulation the components thereof are present in the following quantities:

Component	Quantity Range		Preferred Range
Levodopa	20-1200 mg	(1)	100-400 mg
Carbidopa	5-300 mg	(1)	25-100 mg
Water Soluble Polymer	0-120 mg	(2)	5-25 mg
less water soluble polymer	0-120 mg	(2)	2-50 mg
lubricant	0-25 mg		1-10 mg

(1) The relative amounts of carbidopa to levodopa are preferably from about 1 carbidopa/10 levodopa to 1 carbidopa/4 levodopa.

(2) In a given formulation both polymers cannot be 0 mg.

A process for preparing the novel formulations comprises mixing levodopa, carbidopa and colorants with a hydroalcoholic or other suitable solvent dispersion of the polymer(s), drying, milling, mixing with the lubricant and compressing into tablets.

Alternatively the formulation can be prepared by mixing levodopa, carbidopa and colorants and adding hydroxypropylcellulose and/or polyvinyl acetate/crotonic acid copolymer, either dry or dispersed in a solvent such as water, alcohol or hydroalcohol. The mixture is dried, mixed with lubricant and compressed into tablets.

Specific examples of the novel controlled release formulation of this invention are as follows:

EXAMPLE 1

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	200 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Cellulose Acetate	50 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	5.5 mg
FD & C Blue No. 1	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 2

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	200 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Vinyl Acetate/Crotonic Acid Copolymer	6.5 mg
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose NF	17.0 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	3.0 mg
Red 347 Mapico	0.4 mg
Yellow D & C No. 10 Aluminum Lake HT	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 3

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	200 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Carboxyvinyl Polymer	60 mg
Microcrystalline Cellulose	20 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	5.5 mg
FD & C Red No. 3	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 4

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	200 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Vinyl Acetate/Crotonic Acid Copolymer	5.0 mg
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose NF	17.0 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	3.0 mg
Red 347 Mapico	0.4 mg
Yellow D & C No. 10 Aluminum Lake HT	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 5

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	200 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose	90 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	8.0 mg
Red 347 Mapico	0.4 mg
Yellow D & C No. 10 Aluminum Lake HT	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 6

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	400 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	108 mg
Polymethyl Methacrylate	120.0 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	5.5 mg
FD & C Red No. 3	0.4 mg
Yellow D & C No. 10 Aluminum Lake HT	1.0 mg

EXAMPLE 7

Ingredient	Per Tablet
Levodopa USP	100 mg
Carbidopa Hydrous USP	54 mg
Ethyl Cellulose	20.0 mg
Methyl Cellulose	5.0 mg
Magnesium Stearate Impalpable Powder NF	5.5 mg
FD & C Red No. 3	0.4 mg
Yellow D & C No. 10 Aluminum Lake HT	1.0 mg

The controlled release formulations, No. 1 and No. 2 were compared to standard SINEMET in 20 patients with uncomlicated Parkinson's disease. Mean disability scores were similar over two weeks in patients who received No. 1 or standard SINIMET and in patients who received No. 2 or standard SINEMET. (Because of the design of this study, the group of 10 patients which received No. 1 was different from the 10 patients who received No. 2; however, all patients received standard SINEMET).

Ingredient	Per Tablet (mg) No. 1	No. 2
Levodopa	100	200
Carbidopa	50	50
Polyvinyl acetate-Crotonic acid Co-polymer	3	20
Magnesium Stearate	1.7	5.5
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose	10	-

The pharmacokinetic profiles of the sustained release formulations were clearly different from that of standard SINEMET. Patients on No. I achieved peak plasma levodopa concentrations 2.8 ± 1.2 hours after dosing, compared to a T_{max} of 1.1 ± 0.33 hours with standard SINEMET. For the No. 2 preparation, T_{max} was 3.1 ± 2.2 hours, compared to 1.4 ± 0.5 hours with standard SINEMET. The eight hour bioavailabilities of No. I and No. 2 relative to standard SINEMET were estimated to be 86% and 75%, respectively.

Although mean peak plasma levodopa concentrations for No. 1 and No. 2 were only about half of those produced by SINEMET, and the 8 hour levels following No. 1 or No. 2 administration exceeded those with SINEMET, indicating sustained release properties for both CR formulations.

Based on these results, and the preferable 1:4 ratio of the No. 2 tablet, four open-label clinical and pharmacokinetic studies of No. 2 were conducted in parkinsonian patients with motor fluctuations. Among 30 such patients (22 with "wearing off" and 8 with unpredictable "on/off"), only a few showed marked improvement with decreased "off" time and smooth response during the day. Many others benefited from nighttime improvement including better sleep and mobility, and improved early morning function. Sustained elevated plasma levodopa levels were achieved, but were associated with unpredictable variability.

The No. 2 formulation proved to be extremely difficult to use because of a marked delay in onset of response after each dosage, a requirement for very high daily dosages (150-400% of standard SINEMET), and very poor correlation between time of dose and rise in plasma levodopa levels. In fact, nighttime and early morning plasma levels were sometimes higher than daytime levels, although dosing occurred throughout the day and not at night. Severe, sustained, and unpredictable periods of dyskinesias and similarly sustained "off" periods were observed. B.I.D. dosage administration was unsuccessful in 9 of 9 patients with mild to moderate fluctuations. Formulation No. 2 had to be given nearly as frequently as standard SINEMET in most patients.

The results of these studies strongly indicated that the release rate and bioavailability of the No. 2 tablet were too low in vivo, and probably very sensitive to effects of food and gastric pH. It appeared that in many patients much of the daytime dosage was stored in the stomach and not released until nighttime. A fragmentable matrix with more rapid dissolution characteristics, such as No. 1, had the potential to eliminate some of these problems.

These considerations led to the development of the No. 3 formulation, (Example 4) which has the same in vitro dissolution properties and polymeric matrix as No. 1 but contains 50 mg of carbidopa and 200 mg of levodopa. Fifty patients were enrolled in the No. 3 studies, and preliminary clinical and/or pharmacokinetic data are available from approximately 40 of them.

All four investigators consider the No. 3 formulation to be much easier to use than No. 2, due to 1) predictable onset of response, 2) dosage requirements which are comparable to or slightly higher than standard SINEMET, and 3) more sustained therapeutic action during the day. Most patients who have completed the initial phase of the No. 3 trails requested long-term treatment because of clinical improvement. In general, dosing frequency can be reduced 25-50% with No. 3 relative to standard SINEMET. Clinical fluctuations are reduced throughout the day and occasionally eliminated. Patients with mild to moderate fluctuations (especially end-of-dose "wearing-off") benefit most, although half of the more severe patients have also improved. Pharmacokinetic data indicate that plasma levodopa levels are sustained for 3-6 hours following a dose of No. 3, as compared to 1-2 hours with standard SINEMET.

Onset of response after a single dose of No. 3 is less rapid than with standard SINEMET and may require 45 minutes. In patients with advanced disease, nighttime and early-morning response with No. 3 is

better than with standard SINEMET but notably less than with No. 2. Plasma L-DOPA levels correlate well with these observations in that early morning L-DOPA levels are moderately higher with No. 3 than standard SINEMET but much less than with No. 2.

Dyskinesia, mental confusion and psychosis have been observed at higher doses in patients who had similar side effects with standard SINEMET. Sustained dyskinesias or "off" periods have not been significant problems to date.

Another formulation (Example 2) with dissolution properties intermediate to those of No. 2 and No. 3 has also been developed. This formulation will provide nighttime benefits in severe patients over those seen with No. 3. If onset of reponse is too slow, a fast release component could be added to this formulation.

Claims for the contracting states BE, FR, DE, GB, NL, IT, LU, SE, CH, LI

1. A controlled release oral dosage formulation comprising a uniform dispersion of 5–300 mg of carbidopa, 20–1200 mg of levodopa, 0–25 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 0–120 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 0–120 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; with the proviso that both polymers are not 0 mg, whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

2. The formulation of claim 1, wherein the polymer vehicle is a combination of a water soluble polymer and a less water soluble polymer.

3. The formulation of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

4. The controlled release oral dosage formulation of claim 1 comprising a uniform dispersion of 25–100 mg of carbidopa, 100–400 mg of levodopa, 1–10 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 5–25 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 2–50 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

5. The formulation of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

Claims for the contracting states AT, ES, GR

1. A process for preparing a controlled release oral dosage formulation which comprises forming a uniform dispersion of 5–300 mg of carbidopa, 20–1200 mg of levodopa, 0–25 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 0–120 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 0–120 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; with the proviso that both polymers are not 0 mg, whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the polymer vehicle is a combination of a water soluble polymer and a less water soluble polymer.

3. The process of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

4. The process of claim 1 which comprises forming a uniform dispersion of 25–100 mg of carbidopa, 100–400 mg of levodopa, 1–10 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 5–25 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 2–50 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

better than with standard SINEMET but notably less than with No. 2. Plasma L-DOPA levels correlate well with these observations in that early morning L-DOPA levels are moderately higher with No. 3 than standard SINEMET but much less than with No. 2.

Dyskinesia, mental confusion and psychosis have been observed at higher doses in patients who had similar side effects with standard SINEMET. Sustained dyskinesias or "off" periods have not been significant problems to date.

Another formulation (Example 2) with dissolution properties intermediate to those of No. 2 and No. 3 has also been developed. This formulation will provide nighttime benefits in severe patients over those seen with No. 3. If onset of reponse is too slow, a fast release component could be added to this formulation.

Claims for the contracting states BE, FR, DE, GB, NL, IT, LU, SE, CH, LI

1. A controlled release oral dosage formulation comprising a uniform dispersion of 5–300 mg of carbidopa, 20–1200 mg of levodopa, 0–25 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 0–120 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 0–120 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; with the proviso that both polymers are not 0 mg, whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

2. The formulation of claim 1, wherein the polymer vehicle is a combination of a water soluble polymer and a less water soluble polymer.

3. The formulation of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

4. The controlled release oral dosage formulation of claim 1 comprising a uniform dispersion of 25–100 mg of carbidopa, 100–400 mg of levodopa, 1–10 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 5–25 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 2–50 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

5. The formulation of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

Claims for the contracting states AT, ES, GR

1. A process for preparing a controlled release oral dosage formulation which comprises forming a uniform dispersion of 5–300 mg of carbidopa, 20–1200 mg of levodopa, 0–25 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 0–120 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 0–120 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; with the proviso that both polymers are not 0 mg, whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

2. The process of claim 1, wherein the polymer vehicle is a combination of a water soluble polymer and a less water soluble polymer.

3. The process of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

4. The process of claim 1 which comprises forming a uniform dispersion of 25–100 mg of carbidopa, 100–400 mg of levodopa, 1–10 mg of a tablet lubricant and optionally a pharmaceutically acceptable dye, in a polymer vehicle comprising 5–25 mg of a water soluble polymer selected from hydroxypropyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, polyethylene glycol, starch and methyl cellulose; and 2–50 mg of a less water soluble polymer selected from polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, polyvinyl acetate, polymethyl methacrylate, and ethyl cellulose; whereby following administration the carbidopa and levodopa are released slowly and simultaneously from the formulation.

5. The process of claim 4, wherein the water soluble polymer is hydroxypropyl cellulose and the less water soluble polymer is polyvinyl acetate-crotonic acid copolymer.

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Patentansprüche für die Vertragsstaaten BE, FR, DE, GB, NL, IT, LU, SE, CH

1. Formulierung für die orale Dosierung mit kontrollierter Freisetzung, welche eine gleichförmige Dispersion von 5–300 mg Carbidopa, 20-1200 mg Levodopa, 0–25 mg eines Tablettengleitmittels und gegebenenfalls einen pharmazeutisch annehmbaren Farbstoff in einem Polymervehikel umfaßt, das 0–120 mg eines aus Hydroxypropylcellulose, Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, Polyvinylpyrrolidon, Polyethylenglykol, Stärke und Methylcellulose ausgewählten wasserlöslichen Polymers und 0–120 mg eines aus Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer, Polyvinylchlorid, Polyethylen, Celluloseacetat, Polyvinylalkohol, Ethylen-Vinylacetat-Copolymer, Polyvinylacetat, Polymethylmethacrylat und Ethylcellulose ausgewählten weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers umfaßt, mit der Maßgabe, daß nicht beide Polymere bei 0 mg liegen, wodurch nach der Verabreichung das Carbidopa und Levodopa langsam und gleichzeitig aus der Formulierung freigesetzt werden.

2. Formulierung nach Anspruch 1, worin das Polymervehikel eine Kombination eines wasserlöslichen Polymers und eines weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers ist.

3. Formulierung nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, worin das wasserlösliche Polymer Hydroxypropylcellulose ist und das weniger wasserlösliche Polymer Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer ist.

4. Formulierung für die orale Dosierung mit kontrollierter Freisetzung nach Anspruch 1, welche eine gleichförmige Dispersion von 25–100 mg Carbidopa, 100–400 mg Levodopa, 1–10 mg eines Tablettengleitmittels und gegebenenfalls einen pharmazeutisch annehmbaren Farbstoff in einem Polymervehikel umfaßt, das 5–25 mg eines aus Hydroxypropylcellulose, Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, Polyvinylpyrrolidon, Polyethylenglycol, Stärke und Methylcellulose ausgewählten wasserlöslichen Polymers und 2–50 mg eines aus Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer, Polyvinylchlorid, Polyethylen, Celluloseacetat, Polyvinylalkohol, Ethylen-Vinylacetat-Copolymer, Polyvinylacetat, Polymethylmethacrylat und Ethylcellulose ausgewählten weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers umfaßt, wodurch nach der Verabreichung das Carbidopa und Levodopa langsam und gleichzeitig aus der Formulierung freigesetzt werden.

5. Formulierung nach Anspruch 4, worin das wasserlösliche Polymer Hydroxypropylcellulose ist und das weniger wasserlösliche Polymer Polyvinylacetat Crotonsäure-Copolymer.

Patentansprüche für die Vertragsstaaten AT, ES, GR

1. Verfahren zur Herstellung einer Formulierung für die orale Dosierung mit kontrollierter Freisetzung, welches die Bildung einer gleichförmigen Dispersion von 5–300 mg Carbidopa, 20–1200 mg Levodopa, 0–25 mg eines Tablettengleitmittels und gegebenenfalls einem pharmazeutisch annehmbaren Farbstoff in einem Polymervehikel umfaßt, das 0–120 mg eines aus Hydroxypropylcellulose, Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, Polyvinylpyrrolidon, Polyethylenglycol, Stärke und Methylcellulose ausgewählten wasserlöslichen Polymers und 0–120 mg eines aus Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer, Polyvinylchlorid, Polyethylen, Celluloseacetat, Polyvinylalkohol, Ethylen-Vinylacetat-Copolymer, Polyvinylacetat, Polymethylmethacrylat und Ethylcellulose ausgewählten weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers umfaßt, mit der Maßgabe, daß nicht beide Polymere bei 0 mg liegen, wodurch nach der Verabreichung das Carbidopa und Levodopa langsam und gleichzeitig aus der Formulierung freigesetzt werden.

2. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, worin das Polymervehikel eine Kombination eines wasserlöslichen Polymers und eines weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers ist.

3. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1 oder Anspruch 2, worin das wasserlösliche Polymer Hydroxypropylcellulose ist und das weniger wasserlösliche Polymer Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer ist.

4. Verfahren nach Anspruch 1, welches die Bildung einer gleichförmigen Dispersion von 25–100 mg Carbidopa, 100–400 mg Levodopa, 1–10 mg eines Tablettengleitmittels und gegebenenfalls einem pharmazeutisch annehmbaren Farbstoff in einem Polymervehikel umfaßt, das 5–25 mg eines aus Hydroxypropylcellulose, Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, Polyvinylpyrrolidon, Polyethylenglycol, Stärke und Methylcellulose ausgewählten wasserlöslichen Polymers und 2–50 mg eines aus Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer, Polyvinylchlorid, Polyethylen, Celluloseacetat, Polyvinylalkohol, Ethylen-Vinylacetat-Copolymer, Polyvinylacetat, Polymethylmethacrylat und Ethylcellulose ausgewählten weniger wasserlöslichen Polymers umfaßt, wodurch nach der Verabreichung das Carbidopa und Levodopa langsam und gleichzeitig aus der Formulierung freigesetzt werden.

5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, worin das wasserlösliche Polymer Hydroxypropylcellulose ist und das weniger wasserlösliche Polymer Polyvinylacetat-Crotonsäure-Copolymer.

Revendications pour les Etats contractants BE, FR, DE, GB, NL, IT, LU, SE, CH

1. Formulation de dose orale, à libération contrôlée, comprenant une dispersion uniforme de 5–300 mg de carbidopa, de 20–1200 mg de lévodopa, de 0–25 mg d'un lubrifiant de comprimé et éventuellement d'un colorant pharmaceutiquement acceptable, dans un véhicule polymère comprenant 0–120 mg d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi l'hydroxypropylcellulose, l'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose, la polyvinylpyrrolidone, le poly(éthylèneglycol), l'amidon et la méthylcellulose; et 0–120 mg d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi un copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique, le poly(chlorure

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de vinyle), le polyéthylène, l'acétate de cellulose, le poly(alcool vinylique), un copolymère éthylèneacétate de vinyle, le poly(acétate de vinyle), le poly(méthacrylate de méthyle) et l'éthylcellulose; avec la condition que l'ensemble des polymères ne vaut pas 0 mg, qui permet suite à l'administration la libération lente et simultanée de la carbidopa et de la lévodopa à partir de la formulation.

2. Formulation selon la revendication 1, dans laquelle le véhicule polymère est une combinaison d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau et d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau.

3. Formulation selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans laquelle le polymère soluble dans l'eau est l'hydroxypropylcellulose et le polymère moins soluble dans l'eau est le copolymère de poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique.

4. Formulation de dose orale, à libération contrôlée, selon la revendication 1, comprenant une dispersion uniforme de 25–100 mg de carbidopa, de 100–400 mg de lévodopa, de 1–10 mg d'un lubrifiant de comprimé et éventuellement d'un colorant pharmaceutiquement acceptable, dans un véhicule polymère comprenant 5–25 mg d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi l'hydroxypropylcellulose, l'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose, la polyvinylpyrrolidone, le poly(éthylèneglycol), l'amidon et la méthylcellulose; et 2–50 mg d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi un copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique, le poly(chlorure de vinyle), le polyéthylène, l'acétate de cellulose, le poly(alcool vinylique), un copolymère éthylène-acétate de vinyle, le poly(acétate de vinyle), le poly(méthacrylate de méthyle) et l'éthylcellulose; qui permet, suite à l'administration, la libération lente et simultanée de la carbidopa et de la lévodopa à partir de la formulation.

5. Formulation selon la revendication 4, dans laquelle le polymère soluble dans l'eau est l'hydroxypropylcellulose et le polymère moins soluble dans l'eau est le copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique.

Revendications pour les Etats contractants AT, ES, GR

1. Procédé pour la préparation d'une formulation de dose orale, à libération contrôlée, qui comprend la formation d'une dispersion uniforme de 5–300 mg de carbidopa, de 20–1200 mg de lévodopa, de 0–25 mg d'un lubrifiant de comprimé et éventuellement d'un colorant pharmaceutiquement acceptable, dans un véhicule polymère comprenant 0–120 mg d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi l'hydroxypropylcellulose, l'hydroxypropylméthylcellulose, la polyvinylpyrrolidone, le poly(éthylèneglycol), l'amidon et la méthylcellulose; et 0–120 mg d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi le copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique, le poly(chlorure de vinyle), le polyéthylène, l'acétate de cellulose, le poly(alcool vinylique), le copolymère éthylène-acétate de vinyle, le poly(acétate de vinyle), le poly(méthacrylate de méthyle) et l'éthylcellulose; avec la condition que l'ensemble des polymères ne vaut pas 0 mg, ce qui permet suite à l'administration, la libération lente et simultanée de la carbidopa et de la lévodopa à partir de la formulation.

2. Procédé selon la revendication 1, dans lequel le véhicule polymère est une combinaison d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau et d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau.

3. Procédé selon la revendication 1 ou 2, dans lequel le polymère soluble dans l'eau est l'hydroxypropylcellulose et le polymère moins soluble dans l'eau est le copolymère de poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique.

4. Procédé selon revendication 1, qui comprend la formation d'une dispersion uniforme de 25–100 mg de carbidopa, de 100–400 mg de lévodopa, de 1–10 mg d'un lubrifiant de comprimé et éventuellement d'un colorant pharmaceutiquement acceptable, dans un véhicule polymère comprenant 5–25 mg d'un polymère soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi l'hydroxypropylcellulose, l'hydroxypropylméthyl-cellulose, la polyvinylpyrrolidone, le poly(éthylèneglycol), l'amidon et la méthylcellulose; et 2–50 mg d'un polymère moins soluble dans l'eau choisi parmi le copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique, le poly(chlorure de vinyle), le polyéthylène, l'acétate de cellulose, le poly(alcool vinylique), le copolymère éthylèneacétate de vinyle, le poly(acétate de vinyle), le poly(méthacrylate de méthyle) et l'éthylcellulose; ce qui permet, suite à l'administration, la libération lente et simultanée de la carbidopa et de la lévodopa à partir de la formulation.

5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, dans lequel le polymère soluble dans l'eau est l'hydroxypropylcellulose et le polymère moins soluble dans l'eau est le copolymère poly(acétate de vinyle)-acide crotonique.

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