and administered - using a spray device - into the nose and throat for inhalation, oral or nasal use. Said sprayable compositions are effective as antivirals, in particular in the treatment of viral infections of the respiratory tract and of the symptoms or disorders related thereto in particular infections caused by at least one virus of the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus species (such as SARS-CoV, SARS-CoV-2 or 2019-nCoV strain – responsible for the disease known as COVID-19 - or SARS-CoV-like).

The compositions of the invention, based on lactoferrin or a derivative thereof, have no relevant side effects and they can be administered to all categories of subjects in need, including the elderly, pregnant or breastfeeding women, paediatric subjects (0-12 years), subjects with respiratory or cardiovascular complications or diabetes or other complications that may pose a risk or danger in the event of a viral infection.

Furthermore, the compositions of the invention, based on lactoferrin, are easy to prepare and cost-effective.

These and other objects, which will be clear from the detailed description that follows, are attained by the compositions and the mixtures of the present invention due to the technical characteristics reported in the description and claimed in the attached claims.

SUMMARY

In one aspect, provided herein is use of a composition in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a viral infection, wherein said composition comprises (i) lactoferrin; and, optionally, (ii) at least one acceptable pharmaceutical grade additive and/or excipient; and wherein said use is through oral route.

DESCRIPTION of the FIGURES

Figures 1A-D represent the effect of lactoferrin (L) on a panel of cytokines/chemokines and molecules with antiviral action or involved in antiviral responses produced by Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells.

Figures 2A and 2B schematically represent the drawings of the *in vitro* study of evaluation of the antiviral responses in Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells following a pre-treatment or co-treatment with lactoferrin (L) with respect to a treatment with SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Figures 3A-E represent the effect of lactoferrin on a panel of cytokines/chemokines and molecules with antiviral action or involved in antiviral responses produced by Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells following a pre-treatment with lactoferrin (L) with respect to a treatment with SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Figures 4A-D represent the effect of lactoferrin on a panel of cytokines/chemokines and molecules with antiviral action or involved in the antiviral responses produced by Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells following a co-treatment with lactoferrin (L) and with SARS-CoV-2 virus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Forming an object of the present invention is a composition for oral use (in short, composition of the invention) for use as an antiviral, preferably for use in a method for the treatment of viral infections of the