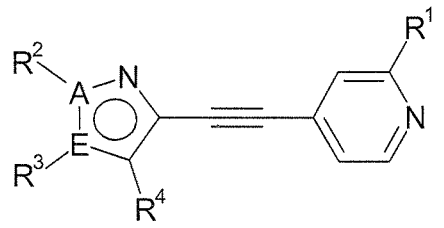
Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition in the form of a layered pellet comprising

a) an inert core;

b) a layer comprising a poorly water soluble compound of formula I with a solubility below 33 mg/ml



(I)

wherein

one of A or E is N and the other is C;

R^1 is halogen or cyano;

R^2 is lower alkyl;

R^3 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by one, two or three substituents chosen from halogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, cycloalkyl, lower haloalkyl, lower haloalkoxy, cyano, or NR'R'',

or by

1-morpholinyl,

1-pyrrolidinyl, optionally substituted by $(CH_2)_mOR$,

piperidinyl, optionally substituted by $(CH_2)_mOR$,

1,1-dioxo-thiomorpholinyl,

piperazinyl, optionally substituted by lower alkyl or $(CH_2)_m$-cycloalkyl;

R is hydrogen, lower alkyl or $(CH_2)_m$-cycloalkyl;

R' and R'' are each independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, $(CH_2)_m$-cycloalkyl or $(CH_2)_nOR$;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 1 or 2; and

R^4 is CHF_2, CF_3, C(O)H, or CH_2R^5, wherein R^5 is hydrogen, OH, C_1-C_6-alkyl or C_3-C_{12}-cycloalkyl;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof;

c) a controlled release layer comprising a rate controlling polymer, which is a pH independent insoluble polymer; and

d) a layer containing a pH responding polymer.

2. The composition according to claim 1, comprising

a) an inert core;

b) a layer containing a compound of formula I;

c) optionally, a separation layer;

d) a controlled release layer containing a rate controlling polymer;

e) a layer containing a pH responding polymer; and

f) optionally, a layer containing a non-thermoplastic polymer.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the inert core is selected from the group consisting of a sugar sphere, microcrystalline cellulose beads, and starch beads.

4. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the inert core comprises a particle size below ~~about~~ 3000 microns.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the inert core comprises a particles size below ~~about~~ 2000 microns.

6. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the inert core comprises an average particle size of ~~about~~ 400 microns to ~~about~~ 1500 microns.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the compound of formula I is selected from the group consisting of
2-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-5-methyl-pyridine;
2-Chloro-5-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-pyridine;
2-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-6-methyl-4-trifluoromethyl-pyridine;
2-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-pyrazine;
2-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-6-methyl-pyridine;
2-[4-(2-Chloro-pyridin-4-ylethynyl)-2,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazol-1-yl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-pyridine;