CLAIMS

1. Use of~~A pharmaceutical composition for protecting renal function, comprising~~ citric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, a hydrate of citric acid, a hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or a mixture thereof in the manufacture of a~~, wherein the~~ pharmaceutical composition for protecting renal function~~is in a form of a tablet~~.

2. Use of~~A pharmaceutical composition for reducing a dietary acid load on a kidney, comprising~~ citric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, a hydrate of citric acid, a hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or a mixture thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for reducing a dietary acid load on a kidney.

3. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~ use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pharmaceutical composition~~which~~ is to be administered to an early-stage chronic kidney disease patient.

4. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the citric acid, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, the hydrate of citric acid, the hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or the mixture thereof is sodium citrate or a hydrate of sodium citrate, potassium citrate or a hydrate of potassium citrate, or a mixture thereof.

5. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises~~ing~~ anhydrous citric acid.

6. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pharmaceutical composition~~which~~ decreases a concentration of protein in urine.

7. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pharmaceutical composition~~which~~ suppresses an increase in concentration of protein in urine associated with progression of chronic kidney disease.

8. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the urine is early morning urine.

9. The ~~pharmaceutical composition~~use according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the protein in urine is albumin in urine.