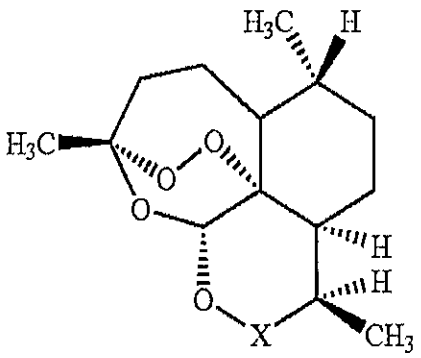
Claims

1. Use of a compound of formula (1) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of seborrheic keratosis:



(1)

wherein:

X represents CO, CHOZ or CHNRZ;

Z is selected from hydrogen; straight-chain and branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkenyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; (C_3 - C_8) cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{24}) aryl; (C_7-C_{24}) aralkyl; m- and p-$CH_2(C_6H_4)COOM$; COR^3 ; CSR^3 ; $C(NR^6)R^3$; SOR^4; $SO_2R^3R^3N$; SO_2OM; $SO_2NR^7R^8$; SO_2O-artemisinyl; SO_2NH-artemisinyl; POR^4R^5 ; PSR^4R^5; and SO_2R^3;

R^3 is selected from straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl; straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkoxy; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkenyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; (C_3 –C_8) cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{24}) aryl; (C_6-C_{10}) aryloxy; (C_7-C_{24}) aralkyl; $-(CH_2)_n-COOM$, with n being an integer of from 1 to 6; and 10α-di-hydroartemisinyl;

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkenyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{24}) aryl; (C_7-C_{24}) aralkyl; OM; straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkoxy; (C_6-C_{10}) aryloxy; and NR^7R^8;

R^6 is selected from straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkenyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{24}) aryl; and (C_7-C_{24}) aralkyl;

M represents hydrogen or a pharmaceutically acceptable cation;

R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl, or R^7 and R^8 together form a (C_4-C_6) alkylene bridge; and

R is selected from hydrogen; straight-chain or branched (C_1-C_6) alkyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkenyl; straight-chain or branched (C_2-C_6) alkynyl; (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl; (C_6-C_{24}) aryl; and (C_7-C_{24}) aralkyl; and

wherein said treatment or prevention comprises the local administration of the compound to a subject in need thereof.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from artemisinin, dihydroartemisinin, carboxyl group-containing compounds of formula (1), artemether, arteether, propyl carbonate of dihydroartemisinin, artemisone, artelinic acid; and/or wherein X is CHOZ and Z is selected from m- and p-$CH_2(C_6H_4)$ COOM and COR^3, and R^3 represents $-(CH_2)_n-COOM$.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein the compound is selected from artemisinin, dihydroartemisinin, artesunate and artemether.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more compounds as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament or composition is to be administered to an area of the subject's skin which was or is affected with seborrheic keratosis.

6. The use according to claim 4, wherein the composition is provided in form of a topical formulation selected from a paste, an ointment, a suspension, a lotion, a solution, a gel, a plaster, a spray, or a cream.

7. The use according to claim 4 or claim 6, wherein the content of the compound in the composition is in the range from approximately 0.01 % to approximately 40 % by weight, in particular from approximately 0.1 % to approximately 10 % by weight, or from approximately 0.5 % to approximately 3 % by weight.

8. The use according to any one of claims 4 to 7, wherein the composition comprises a combination of at least two compounds as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, and wherein the content of the combination of compounds in the composition is

optionally in the range from approximately 0.01 % to approximately 40 % by weight.

9. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the subject is further to be treated by needling or peeling the subject's skin in an area affected with seborrheic keratosis.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the peeling of the subject's skin involves the use of abrasive bodies such as salt crystals, sugar crystals, sand or plastic micro-beads; and/or the use of peeling devices such as a laser peeling device or a micro-dermabrasion device; and/or the manual removal of affected skin.

11. The use according to claim 9 or claim 10, wherein the peeling of the subject's skin is performed after the administration of a peeling agent, wherein the peeling agent is selected from enzymes, urea, retinoic acids, trichloroacetic acid, ascorbic acid, succinic acid, alpha-hydroxy acids such as citric acid, glycolic acid and lactic acid and beta-hydroxy acids such as salicylic acid, or a combination thereof.

12. The use according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the subject is to be co-treated with a further therapeutic agent which is not a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3, and wherein the co-treatment comprises the local administration of the further therapeutic agent to an area of the subject's skin which was or is affected with seborrheic keratosis.

13. The use according to claim 12, wherein the further therapeutic agent is a substance for promoting skin healing or an anti-inflammatory substance selected from steroidal or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as corticosteroids, salicylic acid derivatives, phenylacetic acid derivatives, indole acetic acid derivatives, arylpropionic acid derivatives, aminobenzoic acid derivatives and benzothiazines.

14. The use according to claim 13, wherein the anti-inflammatory substance is selected from hydrocortisone, prednisolone, clobetasone, fluocortine, desonide, triamcinolone, triamcinolone acetonide, dexamethasone, betamethasone, budesonide, mometasone, methylprednisolone aceponate, beclometasone, hydrocortisone aceponate, fluticasone, prednicarbate, clobetasol propionate, salicylic acid, acetylsalicylic acid, diclofenac, indomethacin, ibuprofen, flurbiprofen,

naproxen, ketoprofen, tiaprofenic acid, flufenamic acid, mefenamic acid, piroxicam, tenoxicam, and meloxicam.

15. The use according to any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the further therapeutic agent is incorporated within the composition.