

reference subject with a baseline lesion effective diameter of greater than or equal to 3.19 mm treated n times with a placebo or sham treatment. In embodiments, effects can be observed at or before about month 12. In embodiments, the drug and composition are as described above.

[0013] In embodiments, the determining step comprises transforming the geographic atrophy (GA) lesion area to an effective diameter (ED) using the equation

$$ED = 2 * \sqrt{(GA \text{ lesion area})/\pi}$$

[0014] In a fourth aspect, a method for treating a patient with geographic atrophy lesions is provided. In embodiments, the method comprises identifying a lesion associated with geographic atrophy in a patient, the lesion having a lesion size; and administering or instructing to administer a drug or therapeutic agent that slows progression of geographic atrophy lesion growth in a therapeutically effective dose to slow the rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² relative to placebo- or sham-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm². In embodiments, the drug or therapeutic agent is administered in a therapeutically effective dose to slow the rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline lesion effective diameter of greater than or equal to 3.19 mm relative to placebo- or sham-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline lesion effective diameter of greater than or equal to 3.19 mm. In embodiments, the drug and composition are as described above.

[0014a] In a fifth aspect, a use of a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a drug in the manufacture of a medicament for slowing rate of growth of a lesion associated with geographic atrophy, wherein the therapeutically effective amount slows rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² relative to placebo-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² is provided.

[0014b] In a sixth aspect, a use of a therapeutically effective dose of a drug in the manufacture of a medicament for slowing progression of lesion size associated with geographic atrophy, wherein the therapeutically effective dose of the drug was established by a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to about 8 mm² dosed with the drug is provided.

[0014c] In a seventh aspect, a use of a drug that slows progression of geographic atrophy lesion growth in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a patient with geographic atrophy lesions, wherein a lesion associated with geographic atrophy is identified in the patient, the lesion having a lesion size; wherein the medicament is to be administered or instructed to be administered in a therapeutically effective dose to slow rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² relative to placebo- or sham-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² is provided.

[0015] In addition to the exemplary aspects and embodiments described above, further aspects and embodiments will become apparent by reference to the drawings and by study of the following descriptions.

[0016] Additional embodiments of the present methods, treatments and compositions, and the like, will be apparent from the following description, drawings, examples, and claims. As can be appreciated from the foregoing and following description, each and every feature described herein, and each and every combination of two or more of such features, is included within the scope of the present disclosure provided that the features included in such a combination are not mutually inconsistent. In addition, any feature or combination of features may be specifically excluded from any embodiment of the present invention. Additional aspects and advantages of the present invention are set forth in the following description and claims, particularly when considered in conjunction with the accompanying examples and drawings.

IT IS CLAIMED:

1. Use of a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a drug in the manufacture of a medicament for slowing rate of growth of a lesion associated with geographic atrophy, wherein the therapeutically effective amount slows rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm^2 relative to placebo-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm^2 .
2. The use of claim 1, wherein the drug is brimonidine or a salt thereof
3. The use of claim 2, wherein brimonidine is selected from brimonidine free base or brimonidine tartrate.
4. The use of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the composition is an ocular implant.
5. The use of claim 4, wherein the ocular implant is a solid ocular implant.
6. The use of claim 5, wherein the solid ocular implant is comprised of a biodegradable polymer.
7. The use of claim 6, wherein the biodegradable polymer is poly (D,L-lactide).
8. The use of claim 7, wherein the solid intraocular implant is comprised of between about 50-65 wt% of biodegradable polymer.
9. The use of any one of claims 4-8, wherein the ocular implant comprises a poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide) polymer.
10. The use of any one of claims 1-9, wherein the composition comprises between about 25-60 wt% drug.
11. Use of a therapeutically effective dose of a drug in the manufacture of a medicament for slowing progression of lesion size associated with geographic atrophy, wherein the therapeutically effective dose of the drug was established by a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to about 8 mm^2 dosed with the drug.

12. A method to evaluate a drug for use in reducing progression of geographic atrophy in a subject, comprising:

- selecting for treatment with the drug a subject having a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm²,
- administering the drug to the subject,
- determining geographic atrophy lesion area, and
- repeating said administering and said determining n times, where n is at least 1,

wherein said drug is effective to reduce progression of geographic atrophy if the change in lesion area determined after said repeating from baseline geographic atrophy lesion area is less than a reference subject with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² treated n times with a placebo or sham treatment.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein determining comprises transforming the geographic atrophy (GA) lesion area to an effective diameter (ED) using the equation

$$ED = 2 * \sqrt{(GA \text{ lesion area})/\pi}$$

14. The method of claim 12 or 13, wherein said determining step is performed at about 12 months or less after said administering.

15. Use of a drug that slows progression of geographic atrophy lesion growth in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a patient with geographic atrophy lesions, wherein a lesion associated with geographic atrophy is identified in the patient, the lesion having a lesion size; wherein the medicament is to be administered or instructed to be administered in a therapeutically effective dose to slow rate of lesion growth in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm² relative to placebo- or sham-treated subjects in a population of subjects with a baseline geographic atrophy lesion area of greater than or equal to 8 mm².