Claims

1. Use of a peptide conjugate of formula (I) in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or the prevention of alopecia:

$A\text{-}X_1\text{-}X_2\text{-Pro-Ala-X-B}$

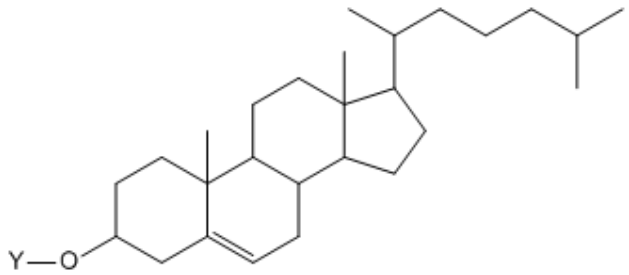
(I)

wherein:

- A represents a hydrogen atom, a C_6 to C_{20} acyl group or a cholesterol residue;
- X_1 represents a covalent bond, an alanine or a proline;
- X_2 represents an arginine, a lysine, or an alanine;
- X represents a lysine, an alanine, or a phenylalanine; and
- B represents a hydroxyl or an amine;

or one of its pharmaceutically, dermatologically or cosmetically acceptable salts.

2. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that group A represents a hydrogen atom, a C_{10} to C_{18} acyl group, preferentially a palmitoyl group, or a cholesterol residue according to formula (II):



(II)

wherein:

- Y represents the carbon atom of the ester bond between the cholesterol residue and X_1.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the salt is an acid addition salt, wherein the acid is for example hydrochloric acid, trifluoroacetic acid and/or acetic acid.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that X_1 is an alanine or a covalent bond, and X_2 is an arginine or an alanine.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that it is selected from:

- (1) H-Ala-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-OH,
- (2) Palm-Ala-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-OH,
- (3) Palm-Ala-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-NH_2,
- (4) Palm-Ala-Arg-Pro-Ala-Ala-NH_2,
- (6) Palm-Ala-Ala-Pro-Ala-Lys-NH_2,
- (7) Chol-Ala-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-NH_2,
- (8) H-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-OH, or
- (9) Palm-Arg-Pro-Ala-Lys-OH,

wherein

- Palm represents a palmitoyl group and
- Chol represents a cholesterol residue.

6. A process for manufacturing the peptide conjugate of formula (I) as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein A represents a palmitoyl group or a cholesterol residue, characterized in that said process comprises the following successive steps:

a. synthesis, at least partially on solid support, of the peptide strand of formula H-X_1-X_2-Pro-Ala-X-B, wherein

- X_1, X_2, X are as defined according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and are suitably protected;
- B is the solid support or a suitably protected OH or NH_2 group;

b. grafting of group A onto the peptide strand of step (a) by acylation reaction, preferentially by the use of an activated acyl in the presence of a base;

c. deprotection of the protected amino acids together with cleavage of the peptide from the resin, when B is a solid support;

d. purification of the peptide conjugate of formula (I) obtained, for example by HPLC; and

e. collection of the product of formula (I), wherein A represents a palmitoyl group or a cholesterol residue and X_1, X_2, X are as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the medicament is for dermatological use in the treatment or the prevention of alopecia optionally in combination with another preferentially dermatological active ingredient.

8. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5 characterized in that the alopecia is selected from androgenetic, congenital, acquired, localized, diffuse, acute or chronic alopecia.

9. A pharmaceutical, dermatological or cosmetic composition comprising at least one peptide conjugate of formula (I)

wherein:

- A represents a palmitoyl group or a cholesterol residue;
- X_1 represents a covalent bond, an alanine or a proline;
- X_2 represents an arginine, a lysine, or an alanine;
- X represents a lysine, an alanine, or a phenylalanine; and
- B represents a hydroxyl or an amine;

or one of its pharmaceutically, dermatologically or cosmetically acceptable salts, characterized in that it is a composition for the scalp.

10. The composition according to claim 9 further characterized in that it is a composition for topical use.

11. The composition according to claim 9 or 10 characterized in that said composition comprises a peptide conjugate of formula (I) in the form of

enantiomers and/or of diastereoisomers, preferentially the amino acids of the peptide conjugate being of L or D form exclusively or of L/D form.

12. The composition according to any one of claims 9 to 11 characterized in that said composition is selected from a lotion, a serum, a shampoo, such as a medicated shampoo, a spray, a gel or a cream such as a medicated cream.

13. The composition according to any one of claims 9 to 12 characterized in that said composition comprises at least one peptide of formula (I) according to any one of claims 1 to 5 at a concentration ranging between 10^{-9} and 10^{-4} mole/litre of composition, preferably between 10^{-7} and 10^{-5} mole/litre of composition.

14. A peptide conjugate of formula (I):

A–X1–X2–Pro–Ala–X–B
(I)

wherein:

- A represents a palmitoyl group or a cholesterol residue;
- X1 represents a covalent bond, an alanine or a proline;
- X2 represents an arginine, a lysine, or an alanine;
- X represents a lysine, an alanine, or a phenylalanine; and
- B represents a hydroxyl or an amine;

or one of its pharmaceutically, dermatologically or cosmetically acceptable salts.