CLAIMS:

1. Use of dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manutfature of a medicament for the treatment of agitation in a human subject with schizophrenia or bilpolar disorder, wherein the medicament is to be administered at a dose resulting in a mean total exposure of dexmedetomidine, as measured by plasma $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$, from 600 ng*h/L to about 12600 ng*h/L.
2. The use of claim 1, wherein the dose is about 120 µg to about 240 µg.
3. The use of claim 1 or 2, wherein the human subject has schizophrenia.
4. The use of claims 1 or 2, wherein the human subject has bipolar disorder.
5. The use of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ is about 2300 ng*h/L to about 3600 ng*h/L; and wherein C_{max} is about 300 ng/L to about 500 ng/L.
6. The use of claim 5, wherein the C_{max} is within the range of about 80% to about 125% of about 400 ng/L.
7. The use of claim 5, wherein the $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ is within the range of about 80% to about 125% of about 2900 ng*h/L.
8. The use of any one of claims 1-4, wherein the $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ is about 1100 ng*h/L to about 1800 ng*h/L; and wherein C_{max} is about 150 ng/L to about 300 ng/L.
9. The use of claim 8, wherein the C_{max} is within the range of about 80% to about 125% of about 220 ng/L.
10. The use of claim 8, wherein the $AUC_{0\text{-}inf}$ is within the range of about 80% to about 125% of about 1410 ng*h/L.
11. The use of claim 8, wherein the plasma T_{max} is about 1 hour to about 8 hours.
12. The use of claim 8, wherein the plasma T_{max} is about 5 minutes to about 4 hours.
13. The use of any of claims 1-12, wherein dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered oromucosally, orally, intranasally or parenterally.
14. The use of claim 13, wherein the dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is to be administered oromucosally.
15. The use of claim 14 wherein the dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is to be administered sublingually.
16. The use of claim 14, wherein dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is to be administered buccally.

17. The use of any one of claims 1-16, wherein dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered in the form of a tablet, film, spray, gel or drops.
18. The use of claim 17, wherein the dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered sublingually in the form of a film.
19. The use of claim 17, wherein the dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is to be administered buccally in the form of a film, patch or tablet.
20. The use of any one of claims 1-19, wherein said film is a self-supporting, dissolvable, film, comprising:
    (i) dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;
    (i) hydroxypropyl cellulose (40,000MW);
    (ii) hydroxypropyl cellulose (140,000MW);
    (iii) hydroxypropyl cellulose (370,000MW); and
    (iv) polyethylene oxide (600,000MW).
21. The use of claim 20, wherein hydroxypropyl cellulose (40,000MW) is present at about 3% to about 15% w/w of the total film weight, hydroxypropyl cellulose (140,000MW) is present at about 3% to about 8% w/w of the total film weight, hydroxypropyl cellulose (370,000MW) is present at about 10% to about 50% w/w of the total film weight, and polyethylene oxide (600,000MW) is present at about 40% to about 70% w/w of the total film weight.
22. The use of any one of claims 1-7 or 10-21, wherein the dose of dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 180 µg.

23. The use of any one of claims 1-4 or 8-21, wherein the dose of dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is about 120 µg.

24. The use of any one of claims 1-23, wherein the dexmedetomidine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is dexmedetomidine hydrochloride.

25. The use of any one of claims 1-24, further comprising a second dose to be administered after a period of time ranging from about 30 minutes to about 12 hours.

26. The use of claim 25, wherein the second dose is about 60µg or about 90µg.

27. The use of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the agitation is reduced, as measured by a mean change in Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale Excited Component (PEC) scores relative to baseline of at least -4 points.

28. The use of any one of claims 1-26, wherein the agitation is reduced, as measured by the Agitation-Calmness Evaluation Scale (ACES), wherein the ACES score is a 3 (mild agitation) or 4 (normal behavior).

29. The use of claims 27 or 28, wherein the reduction in agitation is maintained for about 2 hours to about 6 hours.

30. The use of claim 27 or 28, wherein the agitation is reduced within about 20 minutes to about 1 hour.