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NEW COMBINATION

Field of the invention

This invention relates to improvements in the treatment of mild as well as severe asthma and other respiratory disorders. More particularly, it relates to the use of a bronchodilator in combination with a steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for the treatment of respiratory disorders such as asthma, and to pharmaceutical compositions containing the two active ingredients. It emphasizes the use of a long-acting bronchodilator which provides rapid relief of symptoms.

Background of the invention

There have recently been significant advances in our understanding of asthma. Despite many advances, both in awareness of the disease by doctors and patients alike, coupled with the introduction of very powerful and effective anti-asthma drugs, asthma remains a poorly understood and often poorly treated disease. Previously, contraction of airway smooth muscles has been regarded as the most important feature of asthma. Recently there has been a marked change in the way asthma is managed, stemming from the fact that asthma is recognized as a chronic inflammatory disease. Uncontrolled airway inflammation may lead to mucosal damage and structural changes giving irreversible narrowing of the airways and fibrosis of the lung tissue. Therapy should therefore be aimed at controlling symptoms so that normal life is possible and at the same time provide basis for treating the underlying inflammation.

The most common cause for poor control of asthma is poor compliance with the long-term management of chronic

asthma, particularly with prophylactic treatments, such as inhaled steroids, which do not give immediate symptom relief. Patients will readily take β_2-agonist inhalers, since these provide rapid relief of symptoms, but often do not take prophylactic therapy, such as inhaled steroids, regularly because there is no immediate symptomatic benefit. They also counteract down regulation of β_2-adrenoceptor agonists.

Formoterol, (N-[2-hydroxy-5-[1-hydroxy-2-[[2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]ethyl]phenyl]formamide), is an adrenoceptor agonist which selectively stimulates β_2-receptors, thus producing relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle, inhibition of the release of endogenous spasmogens, inhibition of oedema caused by endogenous mediators, and increased mucociliary clearance. Inhaled formoterol fumarate acts rapidly, usually within minutes and exerts a prolonged bronchodilation, which in clinical trials has been demonstrated as up to 12 hours.

Budesonide, (16,17-butylidenebis(oxy)-11,21-dihydroxypregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione), may be given in a high inhaled dose (up to 2 mg daily) with very low systemic effects, possibly because of its rapid metabolism. The high rapid systemic elimination of budesonide is due to extensive and rapid hepatic metabolism. Long term clinical studies have shown that inhaled budesonide is a pharmacologically safe drug. High doses of inhaled budesonide are highly effective and well tolerated when used in oral steroid replacement therapy. Budesonide represents a logical, safe and effective therapy for long term control of asthma.

The inhaled route of administration enables the dose to be delivered directly to the airways. By this type of administration, it is possible to give a small dose and thereby minimizing unwanted side-effects. The drawbacks of the currently available bronchodilators are their

relatively short duration of action. By using a compound with long duration e.g. formoterol it would be possible to avoid the nocturnal asthma, which so often causes considerable anxiety and debility to the patients. Formoterol gives less nocturnal waking than the commonly used short-acting agonists like salbutamol, terbutaline and the like. Formoterol has been registered for oral administration in Japan since 1986.

Earlier mentioned combinations of long-acting β_2-agonists and steroids include the use of salmeterol and beclomethasone dipropionate (European Patent Application EP 416 950, Glaxo) and salmeterol and fluticasone propionate (European Patent Application EP 416 951, Glaxo). However these combinations suffer a number of disadvantages with regard to the desire for a rapid relief of symptoms and treating mild as well as severe asthma and other respiratory disorders.

Outline of the Invention

The present invention is based on the concept of a novel combination therapy whereby formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately by inhalation. This combination has not only a greater efficiency and duration of bronchodilator action but the combination also has a rapid onset of action. This new feature is of utmost importance in order to establish a higher compliance for patients and it provides a rescue medicine thereby avoiding the necessity for the patient of carrying two different inhalers. This simplifies life for patients considerably and makes life more comfortable and secure. The combination permits a twice daily dosing regime as a basic treatment of asthma, particularly nocturnal asthma.

The present invention provides a medicament containing, separately, or together, (i) formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and (ii) budesonide for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

The invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition for administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder which composition comprises formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide.

According to another aspect of the invention there are provided pharmaceutical compositions comprising effective amounts of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide as a combined preparation for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

The invention further provides formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide for use in combination therapy by simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

Further the invention provides the use of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy where formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder and the use of budesonide in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy where formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately by inhalation in the treatment

of respiratory disorder.

The invention additionally relates to the use of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration of formoterol and budesonide by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

According to a further feature of the invention there is provided a method of treating respiratory disorder which comprises the simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation of effective amounts of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide.

Suitable physiologically salts of formoterol include acid addition salts derived from inorganic and organic acids, such as the hydrochloride, hydrobromide, sulphate, phosphate, maleate, fumarate, tartrate, citrate, benzoate, 4-methoxybenzoate, 2- or 4-hydroxybenzoate, 4-chlorobenzoate, p-toluenesulphonate, methanesulphonate, ascorbate, salicylate, acetate, succinate, lactate, glutarate, gluconate, tricarballylate, hydroxynaphthalene-carboxylate or oleate. Formoterol is preferably used in the form of its fumarate salt and as a dihydrate.

The ratio of formoterol to budesonide used according to the invention is preferably within the range of 1:4 to 1:70. The two drugs may be administered separately in the same ratio.

The intended dose regimen is a twice daily administration, where the suitable daily dose of formoterol is in the range of 6 to 100 μg with a preferred dose of 6-48 μg and the suitable daily dose for budesonide is 50 to 4800 μg with a preferred dose of 100-1600 μg. The particular dose used will strongly depend on the patient (age, weight etc) and the severity of the disease (mild,

moderate, severe asthma etc).

For administration, the combination is suitably inhaled from a nebulizer, from a pressurized metered dose inhaler or as a dry powder from a dry powder inhaler (e.g. as sold under the trade mark Turbuhaler) or from a dry powder inhaler utilizing gelatine, plastic or other capsules, cartridges or blister packs.

A diluent or carrier, generally non-toxic and chemically inert to the medicament e.g. lactose, dextran, mannitol or glucose or any additives that will give the medicament a desired taste, can be added to the powdered medicament.

Examples of the preparation of suitable dosage forms according to the invention include the following:

Formoterol fumarate dihydrate and budesonide (optionally premicronized) are mixed in the proportions given above. The agglomerated, free-flowing micronized mixture may be filled into dry powder inhaler such as sold under the trade mark Turbuhaler. When a capsule system issued, it is desirable to include a filler in the mixture.

The micronized mixture may be suspended or dissolved in a liquid propellant mixture which is kept in a container that is sealed with a metering valve and fitted into a plastic actuator. The propellants used may be chlorofluorocarbons of different chemical formulae. The most frequently used chlorofluorocarbon propellants are trichloromonofluoromethane (propellant 11), dichlorodifluoromethane (propellant 12), dichlorotetrafluoroethane (propellant 114), tetrafluoroethane (propellant 134a) and 1,1-difluoro-ethane (propellant 152a). Low concentrations of a surfactant such as sorbitan trioleate, lecithin, disodium dioctylsulphosuccinate or oleic acid may also be used to improve the physical stability.

The invention is further illustrated by way of example with reference to the following Examples.

Example 1 - Dry Powder Inhaler (Turbuhaler)

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	200 µg

The storage unit of the inhaler is filled with sufficient for at least 200 doses.

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	24 µg
Budesonide	200 µg

The storage unit is filled with sufficient for at least 200 doses.

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	100 µg

The storage unit is filled with sufficient for at least 200 doses.

Example 2 - Metered dose inhaler

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	200 µg
Stabilizer	0.1 - 0.7 mg
Propellant	25 - 100 µl

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	24 µg
Budesonide	200 µg
Stabilizer	0.1 - 0.7 mg
Propellant	25 - 100 µl

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	200 µg
Stabilizer	0.1 - 0.7 mg
Propellant	25 - 100 µl

Example 3 - Metered dose dry powder formulation

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	200 µg
Lactose	up to 5, 12.5 or 25 mg

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	24 µg
Budesonide	200 µg
Lactose	up to 5, 12.5 or 25 mg

Active ingredient	Per dose
Formoterol (as fumarate dihydrate)	12 µg
Budesonide	100 µg
Lactose	up to 5, 12.5 or 25 mg

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CLAIMS

1. A medicament containing, separately or together, (i) formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and (ii) budesonide for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

2. A pharmaceutical composition for administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder which composition comprises formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising effective amounts of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide as a combined preparation for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

4. Formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide for use in combination therapy by simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

5. The use of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy where formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

6. The use of budesonide in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy where formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are administered simultaneously, sequentially or separately by inhalation in the treatment



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of respiratory disorder.

7. The use of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide in the manufacture of a medicament for combination therapy for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration of formoterol and budesonide by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

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ABSTRACT

NEW COMBINATION

Effective amounts of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are used in combination for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

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CLAIMS

1. A medical product comprising, separately or together,

(i) formoterol or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a solvate of said salt, or a solvate of formoterol; and

(ii) budesonide as a combined preparation for administration by inhalation.

2. A medical product according to claim 1, which comprises, as component (i), formoterol fumarate dihydrate.

3. A medical product according to claim 1 or 2, which comprises a non-toxic diluent or carrier.

4. A medical product according to claim 3, in which the non-toxic diluent or carrier is lactose.

5. A medical product according to any of the preceding claims, in which components (i) and (ii) are in dry powder form.

6. A medical product according to any of the preceding claims, in which the ratio of the component (i) to component (ii) is in the range 1:4 to 1: 70.

7. A medical product according to any of the preceding claims, which contains component (i) and (ii) in unit dose form.

8. A medical product according to claim 7, which contains 3 - 50 µg of component (i) and 25 - 2400 µg of budesonide.

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9. A medical product according to claim 7, which contains 3 - 24 µg of component (i) and 50 - 800 µg of budesonide.

10. A medical product according to any of the preceding claims in which components (i) and (ii) are for administration by inhalation in the treatment of a respiratory disorder.

11. A medical product according to any of claims 1 to 10 in which components (i) and (ii) are for administration by inhalation in the treatment of asthma.

12. A medical product according to any of the preceding claims, in which the administration is by inhalation from a dry powder inhaler.

13. A medical product according to any of claims 1 to 11 in which the administration is by inhalation from a pressurized metered dose inhaler.

14. A medical product according to any of claims 1 to 11 in which the administration is by inhalation from a nebulizer.

15. A pharmaceutical composition for administration by inhalation, which comprises

(i) formoterol or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a solvate of the salt, or a solvate of formoterol; and

(ii) budesonide.

16. A composition according to claim 15, which comprises, as component (i), formoterol fumarate dihydrate.

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17. A composition according to claim 15 or 16, which comprises a non-toxic diluent or carrier.

18. A composition according to claim 17, in which the non-toxic diluent or carrier is lactose.

19. A composition according to any of claims 15 to 18, in which the ratio of the component (i) to component (ii) is in the range 1:4 to 1:70.

20. A composition according to any of claims 15 to 19 in unit dose form.

21. A composition according to claim 20, which contains 3 - 50 µg of component (i) and 25 - 2400 µg of budesonide.

22. A composition according to claim 21, which contains 3 - 24 µg of component (i) and 50 - 800 µg of budesonide.

23. A composition according to any of claims 15 to 22, in which components (i) and (ii) are each in micronised form.

24. A composition according to claim 23 which is in agglomerated form.

25. A dry powder inhaler which contains a composition as claimed in claim 24.

26. A capsule, cartridge or blister pack for a dry powder inhaler, the capsule, cartridge or blister pack containing a composition as claimed in claim 24.

27. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 24 for use in the treatment by inhalation of respiratory disorder.

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28. A composition as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 24 for use in the treatment by inhalation of asthma.

29. Use of

(i) formoterol, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a solvate of said salt, or a solvate of formoterol; and

(ii) budesonide,

in the manufacture of a combined preparation for administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

30. Use according to claim 29, in which component (i) is formoterol fumarate dihydrate.

31. Use according to claim 29 or 30, in which the ratio of the component (i) to component (ii) is in the range 1:4 to 1:70.

32. Use according to any of claims 29 to 31, in which the dose regime is twice daily and the dose of component (i) is 6 - 100 µg per day and the dose of component (ii) is 50 - 4800 µg per day.

33. Use according to claim 32, in which the dose of component (i) is 6 - 48 µg per day and the dose of component (ii) is 100 to 1600 µg per day.

34. Use of formoterol, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof, or a solvate of said salt, or a solvate of formoterol, in the manufacture of a medical product as defined in claim 1, for administration by inhalation in the treatment of a respiratory disorder.

35. Use of budesonide in the manufacture of a medical product as defined in claim 1, for administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.

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REPLACEMENT SHEET
13 MAY 1998

ABSTRACT

NEW COMBINATION

Effective amounts of formoterol (and/or a physiologically acceptable salt and/or solvate thereof) and budesonide are used in combination for simultaneous, sequential or separate administration by inhalation in the treatment of respiratory disorder.