

TOPICAL FORMULATION CONTAINING DISPERSED PREGABALIN

The present invention relates to a topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin as active ingredient for the treatment of pain, especially for treatment of chronic pain disorders. Such disorders include, but are not limited to, neuropathic pain, in peripheral neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by diabetic patients or by patients who have had herpes zoster (shingles), and central neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by patients who have had a spinal-cord injury; diabetic neuropathy, causalgia, brachial plexus avulsion, occipital neuralgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, fibromyalgia, gout, phantom limb pain, bum pain, and other forms of neuralgic, neuropathic, and idiopathic pain syndromes.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The compound of the invention is a known agent useful for the treatment of pain, especially the treatment of neuropathy and in antiseizure therapy for central nervous system disorders such as epilepsy, Huntington's chorea, cerebral ischemia, Parkinson's disease, tardive dyskinesia, spasticity and for the treatment of generalized anxiety disorder. Pregabalin as active ingredient was first described in European patent No. EP641330. The use of treatment for pain including neuropathy was first published in the description of European patent No. EP934061. Pregabalin has been marketed in solid oral capsules such as Lyrica® in the EU since 2004. Lyrica® is available as capsules (white: 25, 50 and 150 mg; white and orange: 75, 225 and 300 mg; orange: 100 mg; light orange: 200 mg) and as an oral solution (20 mg/ml). Neuropathic pain may be associated with abnormal sensations called dysesthesia or pain from normally non-painful stimuli (allodynia). It may have continuous and/or episodic (paroxysmal) components. The latter resemble stabbings or electric shocks. Common symptoms include burning or coldness, "pins and needles" sensations, numbness, and itching. Up to 7-8% of the European population is affected, and in 5% of patients it may be severe. Neuropathic pain may result from disorders of the peripheral nervous system or the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). Thus, neuropathic pain may be divided into peripheral neuropathic pain, central neuropathic pain, or mixed (peripheral and central) neuropathic pain. Systemic treatment of neuropathy with pregabalin, e.g. using oral capsules may result in several adverse reactions such as dizziness, somnolence, dry mouth, edema, blurred vision, weight gain, and "thinking abnormal" (primarily having difficulties with concentration/attention). Taking into consideration that peripheral neuropathic pain is connected to a distinct part of the body surface, topical treatment seems to

be possible. The description of WO14168228 patent application discloses a topical composition containing 0.2-3% of pregabalin in aqueous solution or in a gel in which pregabalin is dissolved in water. The compositions containing 1 and 3 % of pregabalin had pain alleviation effect, but after 1,5-2 hours the effect decreased (tables 4 and 9). Gabapentin, the predecessor compound of pregabalin was used for the topical treatment of neuropathic pain in combination with ketamine, ibuprofen, and baclofen. In the International Journal of Pharmaceutical Compounding Vol.18 No.6 [November December] 2014 (pages 504-511) the authors examine the topical availability of gabapentin in different gel systems. 1% and 5 % lipoderm, lipobase gels and poloxamer lecithin organogel were examined.

There are several liquid or semisolid compositions known from the prior art which appeared to be suitable for formulation of pregabalin in a topical delivery system.

The inventors of the international patent application WO2002094220 describe oral solutions. According to the examples, gabapentin oral solution can be prepared by using water and glycerol which is suitable for oral solution. Gabapentin has similar physical, chemical and pharmaceutical properties compared to pregabalin, therefore compositions containing gabapentin are good starting points for the development of compositions comprising pregabalin. A similar oral solution is disclosed in European patent application No.: EP1543831 with the difference that pregabalin is used as active ingredient and hydroxyethyl-cellulose as thickener and does not contain glycerol. The composition of this composition is similar to the marketed oral solution of pregabalin (Lyrica ® solution). Based on the facts disclosed in US10004710B2 patent we expected that these solutions have significant pain alleviating effect even when applied topically. The inventors of this description found that the solution was effective even without any percutaneous absorption promoting ingredient. Pregabalin showed allodynia pain alleviating effect in Mouse Nerve Ligation Model /MNL/. According to the results, after topical administration of the 2.5% aqueous solution without any other ingredients, the alleviating effect had a maximum at 1 hour, then decreased, the reduction was significant and 6 hours later the effect essentially disappeared. According to an example, the same aqueous solution of pregabalin reduced the neuropathic pain in a human patient for 6 hours. According to the used grading, the pain was grade 7 in a ten-point scale, which imposes serious obstruction of sleep. The pain was markedly ameliorated after about 30 minutes (grade 3 or 4) according to the description. It suggests that the effect in the case of human patients may be longer than in mice, but the reduction would be faster. Our attempt to use the marketed Lyrica ® oral solution having a similar composition (besides pregabalin and water comprising only a sweetener and

preservatives) in our experiment, was unsuccessful. Lyrica ® was ineffective. Furthermore, application of a liquid preparation on the body surface is also difficult. The patent suggests that viscosity may be modified by thickeners and suggests that pregabalin may be partly in crystalline form if the concentration is higher, but no such examples were disclosed. According to other inventors, the permeability of the compounds such as pregabalin through skin is low, therefore, the modification of the compound or addition of permeability enhancers is necessary for the preparation of an effective topical composition. According to the description of the US patent application No. US20050209319 the formation of a suitable derivative of pregabalin which decomposes to pregabalin in the skin may be used for more effective transdermal compositions. Such compounds may have better permeability than pregabalin, but as new compounds, extensive preclinical examinations, toxicological screening, and full clinical investigations are also necessary, which are risky and expensive.

The same problem is apparent with newly synthesized excipients which are mentioned in the description of CN108703946B. The results of using these new excipients were demonstrated in rat pain threshold experiments. In the rat experiments these compounds proved that enhancers may help the permeability of pregabalin compared to a composition which does not contain enhancers. In the description of US8394759B2 patent discloses the use of a mixture of fatty acid esters as penetration enhancers. The patent suggests that a mixture of several different cetyl esters can assist pregabalin absorption through the skin. The patent suggests that pregabalin can be used in an amount of 0.01-15% in stick gel. There is no specific example for the use of pregabalin in the description. The description of US20170290778 patent application discloses compositions comprising: one or more active agents; and about 0.1 weight percent to about 5.0 weight percent of an extracellular matrix component or a fragment thereof having an average molecular weight of about 2,000 Daltons to about 60,000 Daltons. The penetration of the compositions through human skin is measured in vitro. Unfortunately, there is no example for the composition comprising pregabalin. The description of WO2017172603 patent application discloses compositions which comprise dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) as penetration enhancer in an amount of 1-30% of the composition. DMSO as dipolar aprotic solvent is a very good enhancer for penetration through the skin. Unfortunately, the use of DMSO may pose a risk as it may cause adverse reactions. DMSO contents in compositions of the examples of the description of WO2017172603 patent application are between 14-30% which is high. Another possibility for the transdermal treatment of neuropathic pain is the combination of different active ingredients which can have either additive or synergistic effect with pregabalin.

US10512655B1 patent describes B vitamin compositions for the treatment of neuropathic pain and as an analgesic. The suggested amount of pregabalin is between 0.001-0.5%, but there is no example for topical composition comprising pregabalin. WO2020069013A1 suggests that besides the component to be absorbed by the skin the topical composition should contain a vasodilator to help the absorption of the active ingredient. The patent application mentions pregabalin as active ingredient, but neither working examples, nor results of the absorption of pregabalin containing composition are presented. Further patent applications relate to topical gels comprising pregabalin. Inventors of US20090247635 patent application prepared a cream comprising 10 % of pregabalin and used it for the treatment of pruritis. The composition of the cream was not disclosed. Only long lists of ingredients were given in the description.

According to our experiments compositions containing pregabalin in an aqueous solution can not contain pregabalin in sufficient concentration to maintain the pain killer effect for more than three hours by topical administration. Even it happens if the transdermal bioavailability is acceptable. Taking into consideration that a three-hour painless sleeping period is insufficiently short, it is obvious that there is a need for a topical composition having longer pain alleviation effect. Therefore, there was a long-felt need for a local therapy for the treatment of diabetic neuropathy or post herpetic neuralgia having preferably about at least 5 hour-long pain alleviation effect with low systemic exposure to lower the side effects of pregabalin. Our aim was to develop a stable topical pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of neuropathic pain, preferably peripheral neuropathic pain or post herpetic neuralgia (PHN) which has a longer pain alleviating effect than 3, more preferably more than 5 hours. Taking into consideration that the affected body surface in case of Diabetic neuropathy (DPN) can reach about 28% of the body surface, our aim to decrease the systemic effect of the topical composition as much as possible was also important.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

We found surprisingly that our aim can be achieved by preparation of a topical composition comprising pregabalin and a phospholipid wherein the phospholipid phase or the composition comprising pregabalin and phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, preferably with a high pressure homogenizer. More particularly, the topical pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention comprises pregabalin in preferably more than 2.5 weight% and a phospholipid in a 0.1-5 weight % in a gel or cream formulation in which the phase which comprises the phospholipid is milled by a high pressure homogenizer with or without the presence of pregabalin. We found

surprisingly that in the case that the phospholipid phase is milled by a high pressure homogenizer, the pregabalin mixed into the thus obtained structure has extended effect with the advantage that the pain alleviation effect develops in a short time, then lasts much longer, even more than 5 hours, than the effect of the same quantitative composition lasting less than 3 hours if components are mixed and homogenized without the use of a high pressure homogenizer.

All physical and stability properties of the compositions having the same composition of ingredients were the same but the pain alleviation effect was significantly longer in cases where an high pressure homogenizer (hereinafter referred to as HPH homogenizer) was used. Thus, the improved unexpected effect was a result of the use of an HPH homogenizer, which causes high shearing forces in the composition during the process. Apparently, these forces cause the unexpected advantageous effect of the present invention, therefore it is a reasonable expectation that every homogenization process causing similar high shearing forces is also suitable for the preparation of the compositions of the present application. The person skilled in the art can choose the equipment and operation parameters thereof to achieve the required high shearing forces. Such equipment which may be suitable for the preparation of the compositions of the present invention are those in which e.g. similar turbulence, local cavitation, shear test, impact speed are applied. Such devices include high shear mixers, homogenizers, shredders, grinders such as ultrasonic mixers, rotor / stator homogenizers, TURRAX homogenizers, bead mills, colloid mills, high shear mixers, slit homogenizers, microfluidizers and so on.

According to our studies, phospholipid micelles that form in protic solvents are partially or completely disintegrated by high-pressure mixing with high shear forces. This is confirmed by low-angle X-ray diffraction studies on the formulations..

No such effect can be observed when using methods of homogenization with smaller shearing forces. Mixing and homogenization of the formulations in each step - when a non-high pressure homogenizer was used - mixing and homogenization was performed with a Stephan UMC 5 electronic device (see Example R-3). It is very surprising that the thus prepared product keeps the advantageous form and properties even after 12 months without any change and that the compounds having been prepared according to the present invention have the longest pain alleviation effect

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

Our aim was achieved by development of a topical pharmaceutical composition containing more than 2.5 weight % of pregabalin and a phospholipid of 0.1-5 weight %, preferably 0.1-3

weight %, in a gel or cream formulation in which the cream or gel phase of the formula containing phospholipids is homogenized by high shear mixer, most preferably by a high pressure homogenizer in the presence or in absence of pregabalin, preferably micronized pregabalin. The homogenization is carried out preferably at least once, more preferably the homogenization is carried out by high shear mixer, most preferably by a high pressure homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times.

We found surprisingly that a topical pharmaceutical composition containing more than 2.5 weight % of pregabalin and a phospholipid of 0.1-3 weight % in a gel or cream formulation in which the cream or gel phase of the formula containing phospholipids is homogenized by a high shear mixer, most preferably a high pressure homogenizer at least once without or with the presence of pregabalin has a long lasting, at least 5-hour pain alleviation effect in the topical treatment of mice (Mouse model of neuropathic pain). According to the preferred embodiments, the gel or cream containing pregabalin is homogenized by a high pressure homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times.

According to the present invention the composition comprises pregabalin in dispersed form. This means that the composition comprises pregabalin not only in dissolved but also in solid form because of the low solubility of pregabalin. Solubility of pregabalin is poor in any solvents. Water and protic solvents such as pharmaceutically acceptable alcohols having one or more hydroxyl groups such as ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, butanol, sec-butanol as alcohols having one hydroxyl group, propylene glycol having two, or glycerin having three hydroxyl groups are used as solvents according to the present invention.

According to the present invention water and the above-mentioned alcohols, more preferably water, ethanol or isopropanol are used as solvent. In an advantageous embodiment, water mixed with an alcohol, preferably with isopropanol is used. Above 2.5 weight % of pregabalin content, in the mixture of pregabalin and water – apart from dissolved pregabalin – the residual part of pregabalin remains in solid, dispersed form in the composition. Thus, the meaning that pregabalin is in dispersed form according to the present invention is that the composition comprises pregabalin not only in dissolved but also in solid form. The ratio of the dissolved and dispersed pregabalin depends on the weight percent of pregabalin in the composition, the used solvent and/or the ratio of the used solvents in the mixture, the temperature of the composition and the further excipients used. Shortly, the compositions according to the present invention besides the dispersed pregabalin, can also comprise dissolved pregabalin.

We found surprisingly that the pain alleviation effect of the composition depends on the particle size of the used pregabalin. According to the preferable embodiment of the present invention the pregabalin used as starting material is ground, which means that the D_{90} of particle size of the used pregabalin is less than 200 micrometer, preferably between 20-200 micrometer. More preferably, micronized pregabalin is used as starting material, which has a D_{90} less than 20 micrometer.

According to the present invention, protic solvents are used as solvents. More particularly, water and pharmaceutically acceptable alcohols having one or more hydroxyl groups can be used as solvent. These alcohols can also be substituted. Preferably ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, 2-butanol can be used as alcohol having one hydroxyl group. Propylene glycol and glycerin can be used as alcohols having more than one hydroxyl group. Most preferably the composition of the present invention comprises water, ethanol or isopropanol or a mixture thereof as solvent. According to a more advantageous embodiment of the present invention the composition comprises a mixture of water and ethanol or water and isopropanol. The preferable ratio of alcohol to water is between 1 : 1 – 1 : 40, more preferably between 1:10 – 1 : 40 most preferably 1:15 – 1: 35 by weight.

Some solvents of the present invention have penetration enhancing effect as well. Such solvents are e.g. isopropanol and ethanol. According to the description these compounds are taken into consideration as solvents. Therefore, in the examples and the description the ratio, e.g. weight %, of these compounds in the composition is counted in the rate of solvents and the amount of these solvents are not included in the amount of penetration enhancer ratio.

Phospholipids used in the compositions of the present invention are also well-known penetration enhancers. Taking into consideration that phospholipids and the treatment of phospholipids in the process is crucial, the amount of the phospholipids used in the high shear mixing, most preferably HPH process is not counted in the amount of the penetration enhancers. But it is not excluded that besides the high shear mixed, most preferably HPH-processed phospholipids, further phospholipids are added to the composition. In such a case the used further phospholipids are counted as other penetration enhancers.

Phospholipids according to the present invention are natural or synthetic phospholipids. As phospholipids, phosphatidic acid (phosphatidate), phosphatidylethanolamine (cephalin), phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, phosphoinositides, such as phosphatidylinositol, phosphatidylinositol phosphate, phosphatidylinositol bisphosphate, phosphatidylinositol

trisphosphate, ceramide phosphorylcholine, ceramide phosphorylethanolamine, ceramide phosphorolipid or derivatives and mixtures thereof can be used. According to the present invention preferably phosphatidylcholine (lecithin), more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75 can be used.

The topical composition of the present invention is gel, cream, or gel-cream. To achieve the advantageous gel, cream or gel-cream properties, in the preferable embodiments of the present invention a rheology modifier is also used. As rheology modifier, poloxamers, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid), hydroxyalkyl celluloses, such as hydroxyethylcellulose and vegetable gums such as xanthan gum or guar gum can also be used. Preferably carbomers, most preferably carbomer 980 is used.

These compositions according to the present invention usually comprise other excipients besides the pharmaceutically active ingredients.

The compositions of the present invention can comprise emollients as excipients which are effective moisturisers that can help maintain the skin's natural protective barrier and rehydrate the skin. According to the preferable embodiment of the present invention the topical pharmaceutical composition can be obtained by a process where it can comprise as emollient ammonium lactate, vitamins A, D, and E, lanolin, lanolin alcohol, propylene glycol dibenzoate, vegetable oils, plant extracts, fatty alcohol esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, synthetic polymers, silicon compounds, fatty acids, mineral oil derivatives, waxes or a mixture thereof. For example as vegetable oil emollient, coconut oil, soy oil, soybean oil, grape seed oil, hazelnut oil, *helianthus annuus* (sunflower) seed oil, hemp seed oil, hydrogenated olive oil, hydrogenated soybean oil, peanut oil, pecan oil, *persea gratissima* (avocado) oil, pistachio seed oil, plum seed oil, *limnanthes alba* (meadowfoam) seed oil, *oenothera biennis* oil, *olea europaea* fruit oil, *olea europaea* oil unsaponifiables, olive oil/olive fruit oil, *orbignya oleifera* seed oil, *oryza sativa* oil, palm oil *palmaria palmata* extract, *prunus armeniaca*, *prunus domestica* seed oil, *prunus dulcis*, pumpkin seed extract, rapeseed oil, quinoa oil, sweet almond oil, rice bran oil, rice oil, *ricinus communis*, safflower seed oil, *sesamum indicum* (sesame) seed oil, *triticum vulgare* oil, walnut oil, wheat germ oil, *pongamia glabra* seed oil, *moringa oleifera* seed oil or a mixture thereof can be used. As plant extract emollient for example *Haslea ostrearia* extract, *Helianthus* oil, *Himanthalia elongata* extract, Irish moss extract, *Mangifera indica* (mango) seed butter, *Mastocarpus stellatus*, *Microcystis aeruginosa*, murumuru seed butter, *Padina pavonica* extract, *Orbignya martiana*, *Prunus amygdalus dulcis*, quinoa oil, *Rosa canina*, *Rosa centifolia*, shea butter, hydrolyzed algae extract or a mixture thereof can be used. As fatty alcohol esters,

for example lauryl lactate, Myristyl myristate, Neopentyl glycol dicaprylate, octyl palmitate, octyl stearate, triisocetyl citrate, trioctyldodecyl citrate, Raphanus sativus (radish) seed oil or a mixture thereof can be used.

As fatty acid ester emollient for example stearates, glyceryl stearate, glycol stearate, hexyl laurate, hydrogenated coco-glyceride, hydrogenated palm glycerides, methyl glucose sesquistearate, octyldodecyl myristate, octyldodecyl neopentanoate, polyglycerol monostearate, polyglyceryl 2 triisostearate, polyglyceryl-4 isostearate, polyglyceryl-6 isostearate, propylene glycol isostearate, propylene glycol laurate, stearyl stearate, tridecyl stearate, triglycerides, trilaurin, trioctanoin, wheat germ glycerides, glyceryl behenate, glyceryl rosinat, lauryl laurate, Salvia hispanica (chia) seed oil, Argania spinosa kernel oil, caprylyl caprylate/caprinate, ethylhexyl olivate, isoamyl cocoate, sucrose stearate, diisostearyl polyglyceryl-3 dimer dilinoleate, cetareth-6 olivate, coco-caprylate, behenyl behenate, glyceryl stearate citrate or a mixture thereof can be used. As fatty alcohol for example hexyldecanol, octyldodecanol, stearyl alcohol, myristyl alcohol or a mixture thereof can be used. As synthetic polymer emollient for example hydrogenated polydecene, hydrogenated polyisobutene, PEG-10 rapeseed sterol, PEG-100 stearate, PEG-20 methyl glucose sesquistearate, PEG-40 hydrogenated castor oil, PEG-60 almond glycerides, PEG-60 hydrogenated castor oil, PEG-7 glyceryl cocoate, PEG-8, PEG 90M, PEG/PPG-17/6 copolymer (PEG stands for polyethylene glycol; PPG stands for polypropylene glycol), polyethylene, PPG-3 benzyl ether myristate, sodium PEG-7 olive oil carboxylate, triethoxysilylethyl polydimethylsiloxylethyl hexyl dimethicone, methyl gluceth-20 benzoate, polyglyceryl-10 stearate, polyglyceryl-4 laurate, polyglyceryl-4 olivate, polyglyceryl-3 stearate or a mixture thereof can be used. As fatty acid type emollient for example hydrolyzed jojoba esters, linoleic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, trihydroxystearin or a mixture thereof can be used. As mineral oil derivative type emollient for example petrolatum, paraffinum liquidum or a mixture thereof can be used. As wax type emollient for example beeswax or synthetic beeswax can also be used. Preferably as emollient vitamins A, D, and E, lanolin, lanolin alcohol, propylene glycol dibenzoate, vegetable oils, plant extracts, fatty alcohol esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, synthetic polymers, silicon compounds, fatty acids, mineral oil derivatives, waxes or a mixture thereof, most preferably as fatty acid ester cetyl palmitate, fatty alcohols as octyldodecanol, as fatty acid derivative Decylis oleas, as vegetable oil coconut oil or a mixture thereof is used.

According to the preferable embodiment of the present invention the topical pharmaceutical composition can comprise further penetration enhancers such as DL-alpha-tocopherol,

dimethylsulfoxide diethyl sebacate, glycofurol, isopropyl myristate, isopropyl palmitate, lauric acid, linoleic acid, methylpyrrolidone, myristic acid, oleic acid, oleyl alcohol, palmitic acid*, polyoxyethylene alkyl ethers, polyoxylglycerides e.g. caprylocaproyl polyoxylglycerides, polyoxylglycerides ii.: lauroyl polyoxylglycerides, polyoxylglycerides such as linoleoyl polyoxylglycerides, polyoxylglycerides thymol, tricaprylin, camphora racemica, menthol, cetyl decanoate, cetyl laurate, cetyl myristate, cetyl myristoleate, cetyl oleate, cetyl palmitate, cetyl palmitoleate, cetyl stearate, or a mixture of further penetration enhancers are used. Alcohols which are used as solvent also have penetration enhancer effect.

According to the preferable embodiments of the present invention preservatives are also used. As preservatives EDTA, EDTA derivatives, aromatic preservatives such as para-hydroxy benzoates, thimerosal, chlorohexidine, benzyl alcohol and benzalkonium chloride, phenoxyethanol, preferably benzyl alcohol, or a mixture thereof, more preferably a mixture of benzyl alcohol and EDTA can be used. EDTA is used as complex forming compound besides its preservative role.

According to the preferable embodiments of the present invention the topical pharmaceutical composition can also comprise pH regulators. Preferably ammonia, ammonium solution, alkali or alkali earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, hydro-carbonates, or organic bases, such as primary, secondary or tertiary amines, most preferably aqueous ammonia solution can be used as pH modifier.

Homogenization is a process which has a crucial role in the present invention. For the sake of clarity, in the case of a high-shear mixer, preferably a high-pressure homogenisation (HPH) process, which is able to change the structure of the composition such a way that the unexpected result – extended period of pain alleviation – is achieved, this fact is mentioned as "homogenization with a high shear mixing equipment", most preferably "HPH homogenization", "high pressure homogenization", "homogenized with HPH homogenizer" and the like. Where the homogenization process causes the homogenous distribution of the mixed ingredients only terms "homogenization", "mixing", "mixed" and the like are used. The essential feature of the present invention is that at least in one process step, the phospholipid has to be homogenized with a high-shear mixing equipment, preferably with a high-pressure HPH homogenizer in the presence of a solvent, such as water, an above-mentioned alcohol or a mixture thereof.

As described above, homogenization with a high shear mixing equipment can be accomplished in the prior art with a number of different equipment that differs significantly in construction.

The high shear mixing or homogenizing devices of the present invention are prior art mixing, homogenizing and comminuting devices capable of operating in operation with parameters that allow the phospholipid, water and solvent, preferably water or C₁-C₄, one or more alcohol or a mixture thereof with each other or with water, or a mixture of the components of which they are components, is mixed in such a way as to partially or completely disintegrate the micelles formed by phospholipids. That can be said that the mixing must be so intense, so high shear forces must be developed that the phospholipid micelles cannot form or must fall apart due to the mixing forces. Any device that reduces the amount of micelles in the mixture is suitable for this. According to the present invention, the HPH homogenizer, microfluidizer, ultrasonic homogenizer, bead mill, slit homogenizer, colloid mill, high shear mixer, more preferably HPH homogenizer, microfluidizer, ultrasonic homogenizer, HP is preferably used as the high shear mixer. The high-shear mixing equipment according to the invention - due to their different technical designs and operating principles, can reduce the number of micelles with different efficiencies (see WE-4 and WE 4 / B, high-pressure homogenizer or ultrasonic mixer), but if the amount of micelle is reduced, the determination of the technical parameters by which the composition of the present invention can be made with the equipment is the part of the knowledge of the person skilled in the art. Whether a device reduces the number of micelles can be determined by two easy-to-implement experimental models that do not require further research. Thus, according to the present invention, any mixing device in the composition containing the phospholipids of the present invention reduces the number of micelles by which, ifa.) Repeating the example of Reference Example R-3 (PGA0450717) of the present invention with the mixer described therein and homogenizing the lipid phase 5 times after homogenization with the supposedly high shear homogenizer and then completing the preparation as described in the example. A small scatter X-ray pattern of the two products obtained is then taken according to the procedure described in Example 8. If, in the diffractogram of the product obtained with the unknown stirrer, as in Figure 14, in the range $0.7 \text{ nm}^{-1} < q < 3 \text{ nm}^{-1}$, the curve obtained with the different stirrer runs below the Reference product (R-3), then the mixing reduced the micelles that is, the mixing device is considered to be a high-shear mixer in the present mode.b.)

However, one can also ascertain whether the mixing of the product according to his method reduces the amount of micelles, i.e. whether the particular mixer is a high shear mixer as

described in the present invention, if the mixture produced by it is R-3 of the present application. and then compares the resulting compositions with a low-angle X-ray diffraction test as described above. If the product obtained with the mixer used runs in the range of $0.7 \text{ nm}^{-1} < q < 3 \text{ nm}^{-1}$ below the spectrum of the mixture prepared with the homogenizer described in the Reference Product (R-3), the mixing has reduced the number of micelles, i.e. according to the invention, the device is considered to be a high-shear mixer.

The differences can be characterized by the parameters of the curves fitted to the measurement curves, namely the magnitude of the scaling factor of the Micella standard deviation. If the scaling factor of the Micella scattering charge with the mixer used is less than the result obtained from the curve obtained with the homogenizer in the R-3 experiment, the number of micelles is reduced by the tested mixer, i.e. the mixer is considered a high shear mixer according to the invention. The micelle scattering contribution is a parameter of the fitting curve that can be fitted to the X-ray diffraction curve, and the mathematical method required to determine it is shown below.

In Reference Example R-3, homogenization was performed in a Stephan UMC 5 electronic mixer with a stirring speed of 300 rpm and a scraper stirring speed of 20 rpm.

But in fact, mixing machines can be used which allow the gels/oointments to be mixed without the gel/oointment structure collapsing. Such devices do not have a shear force that would disintegrate phospholipid micelles. Such equipment is commercially available. For a detailed description of these and work with them, see Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Technology, Third Edition (edited by James Swabrick, 2007 by Informa Healthcare USA, Inc.), Volume 3265-66. side.

In the methods of the present invention, when low shear mixing was used, homogenization was performed in a Stephan mixer at a mixing speed of 300 rpm and a scraping speed of 20 rpm.

A common feature of the equipment used is that the phospholipid micelles in the composition are partially or completely disintegrated with strong shear. In the WE-4/B series of experiments, different mixing equipment was used to prepare formulations of the same composition as PGA2330320 5% pregabalin prepared in WE-4, the only difference between which and PGA2330320 being the high shear mixing homogenization was performed with different equipments. Thus, during the test, the right hind operated leg of the animals ($\sim 2 \text{ cm}^2$ area) was treated with 10 μl of cream (0.5 mg of pregabalin). The reason for choosing the treatment volume was that this volume was half the amount that the reference (PGA2330320) remained

effective for 8 hours. In this test, with this treatment regimen, we expected that any differences in efficacy would be more apparent at lower treatment volumes over the five-hour duration of the experiment. The experiment showed that the effect was high in the first 3 hours and decreased by the fifth hour, but was still significantly higher than baseline, demonstrating that the present invention structure is formed in the phospholipid-containing medium, which surprisingly does not revert to a micellar, short-acting state.

The critical effect of high shear, high shearing effect HPH homogenization on efficacy is clearly demonstrated in a rat model of formalin-induced neuropathy in rats. In Example 4, two gels of the same composition containing 15% pregabalin prepared different ways were compared to placebo formulations of similar compositions. Namely, PGA0450717 (composition R-3), which was not subjected to HPH homogenization, was compared with placebo PGA0440717, (Composition P-1) whose lipid phase was also not treated with HPH homogenizer. The effect of the two formulations over the total time of measurement and in the second phase, which causes symptoms characteristic of neuropathic nerve damage, was not different between the two formulations. The results were completely different in the case of comparing PGA0470717 also containing 15% pregabalin, with PGA0460717 placebo, namely, PGA0470717 caused a significant reduction in pain throughout the total time of measurement and in the second phase also compared to placebo. Both formulations, PGA0470717 and placebo PGA0460717, were prepared by homogenizing the mixture of swollen phospholipid and isopropyl alcohol 5 times with an HPH homogenizer. The results are shown in Figure 10.

During our development we have tried to use different gels e.g. lipoderm, but the stability of these gels was not acceptable. We found surprisingly that phospholipids can be used as penetration enhancers in topical composition comprising pregabalin for the treatment of neuropathic pain, preferably peripheral neuropathic pain or post herpetic neuralgia (PHN), but a long lasting effect can be achieved only when the phospholipids are homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer in the presence of a solvent, preferably in the presence of water, more preferably in the presence of a mixture of water and an alcohol. The pain alleviation effect of different pharmaceuticals can be modelled according to medial plantar nerve ligation model hereinafter referred to as MNLP test (-Sci Rep-2016, / <http://www.nature.com/scientificreports/>). Using this test, we found surprisingly that topical treatment with a composition which comprises a phospholipid homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer (HPH) has significant and long lasting effects in plantar withdrawal threshold experiments. Contrarily, the topical treatment in which the phospholipids were not

homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer the effect was decreased after three hours rapidly. In Figure 1. the MNLP test of three similar compositions are shown as follows:

Batch No	PGA2180719	PGA2190719	PGA0450717	PGA0470717	PGA1601018
Process	R-1 (reference example)	R-2 (reference example)	R-3 (reference example)	WE-1 (Working example of the present invention)	WE-2 (Working example of the present invention)
Compound	g	g	g	g	g
Pregabalin (micronized*, ground**)	2.5000*	5.0000**	15.0000*	15.0000*	5.0000*
LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75) * SOYA LECITHIN (Deoiled Soya Lecithin)	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000*	0.5000*	1.0000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Coconut oil refined	5.0000	5.0000	0.0000	0.0000	10.0000
Octyldodecanol			2.5000	2.5000	
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000	10.0000	5.0000	5.0000	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
Benzyl alcohol	1.0000	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	2.0000
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.4000	0.4000	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Ammonium solution (25 weight% aqueous)	0.3136	0.3136	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940
Purified water	78.7839	76.2839	74.8285	74.8285	69.8285
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
<u>Number of HPH of lipid phase</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Plantar withdrawal threshold test conditions</u>					
<u>Pregabalin</u>	<u>2.5%</u>	<u>5%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>5%</u>
<u>Area (on MPNL paw)</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>
<u>Amount of composition [μl] (on MPNL paw)</u>	<u>50 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>50 μl</u>	<u>50 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>
<u>Number of the group (n)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

Thus, phospholipids in the compositions of PGA2180719, PGA2190719 and PGA0450717 were not homogenized in the presence of a solvent with an HPH homogenizer, meanwhile PGA0470717 and PGA1601018 were prepared according to the present invention.

In all cases the pain alleviation effect developed in 30 minutes, which suggests that absorption through the skin of the compositions is excellent for each composition, but the effect of the

composition PGA2180719, which comprises pregabalin in dissolved form, is reduced almost to the starting level after five hours. Using the composition PGA2190719, which comprises pregabalin in dispersed form, the effect reduces almost by half of the maximum level after five hours. The composition PGA1601018 according to the present invention has significant effect after five hours. The difference of intact paw and MPNL paw after five hours compared to the baseline shows that the effect is significant even after five hours.

Furthermore, based on the article *Bennett GJ, et al* (Pain., A peripheral mononeuropathy in rat that produces disorders of pain sensation like those seen in man. 1988 Apr;33(1):87-107) we have developed a method for the examination of the compositions of the present invention. Thus, we have examined the compositions according to the present invention also with a different model for measuring the alleviation of the peripheral neuropathic pain also. Namely, we have carried out examinations on rats using Chronic constriction injury (CCI) model. Three weeks following nerve injury rats were assessed for hind paw mechanical withdrawal thresholds. The paw withdrawal threshold (PWT) was determined with an Electronic von Frey device according to the modified up-down method of Dixon (Efficient analysis of experimental observations., *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol.* 1980; 20:441-62). The results also proved that the compositions of the present invention have advantageous effect on the alleviation of peripheral neuropathic pain. Using 5 mg pregabalin gel (PGA2330320)/4 cm² in 50μl 10% cream causes more than five hours pain alleviation in rats. The method and results are shown in example 3 and on Figure 9.

As we mentioned above, the effect of the compositions according to the invention can be detected very quickly, within 30 minutes, e.g. also when using the MPNL model. The absorption compositions of PGA 1601018 containing 5% pregabalin and PGA 1591018 containing 10% pregabalin were examined. This indicates that one hour after treatment, the gels were completely absorbed in both cases, although the gel contained dispersed solid pregabalin particles. Figure 11 shows photographs of the surface of the pig skin before, one hour after, and two hours after treatment. After one hour, even the 10% pregabalin formulation appeared to be completely absorbed. The PGA1671118 composition of the present invention (WE-2 method) was compared to other commercially available creams containing dispersed particles, namely Neogranormone® and a more advanced form of Mometasone Medimer®. The formulation (PGA1671118) was “absorbed” less than one hour, while the other two commercial formulations were still visible on the pig skin after 3 hours. After 3 hours, there was no

deposition or crystallization visible under magnification for PGA1671118. Photos from the experiment are shown in Figure 12.

During our research we have not found any physical differences between the compositions which could explain the difference of the effects. Neither the compositions of the present invention homogenized with an HPH homogenizer, nor the reference compositions had liposomes. Our first expectation was that using lecithin, a liposomal structure should have formed, which was expected to cause good absorption properties and long-lasting pain alleviating effect. On the contrary, neither the compositions according to the present invention homogenized with an HPH homogenizer, nor the compositions homogenized in a usual mixer equipment showed liposomal structure examined by electron microscope. Moreover, there was no significant difference between the different compositions in these tests. PGA0450717 and PGA0470717 were tested by Frozen Fracture Transmission Electron Microscopy (FF-TEM). The results did not show significant differences between the compositions. We found only that in the matrix of these two samples small particles as well as drug crystals of several μm in size were dispersed (Figure 7).

Subsequently we tested our compositions of PGA0450717 and PGA0470717 with SAXS (Small-angle X-ray scattering) method. This method is used for quantifying nanoscale electron density differences in a sample. Measured SAXS curves of gel formulations PGA0450717 and PG0470717 and their fitted model functions are demonstrated on Figure 9. The SAXS curves of samples PGA0450717 and PGA0470717 do not show any peaks in the observed q -range which would indicate a regular, periodic structure in the nano scale. The only feature that appears is in the range of $0.7 \text{ nm}^{-1} < q < 3 \text{ nm}^{-1}$: an increase in intensity different from the monotonically decaying baseline. The baseline can be interpreted using Porod's law, a well-known feature in small-angle scattering (Porod 1951). According to this, the tail part of the scattering curves of three-dimensional objects with smooth surfaces (e.g. nanoparticles) follow a power-law function of -4 exponent. This behavior is not limited to nearly spherical particles, though. Several other systems exhibit power-law scattering with different exponents (Schmidt 1991). We therefore account for the contribution of components larger than what SAXS can resolve (e.g. pregabalin crystallites, see the above mentioned FF-TEM images in figure 7) using a power-law baseline, extended with a constant term which is the common scattering feature of small-molecular solvents (e.g. water).

As a first approximation, the micelles can be regarded as an ensemble of spheres of narrow size distribution with homogeneous electron density inside them. Their scattering intensity can be calculated as follows:

where $I_{\text{sphere}}(q, r)$ is the scattering intensity of a sphere of homogeneous electron density with radius r and volume V ,

where I is the scattering intensity of a single sphere of homogeneous electron density with radius r and volume V , and the size distribution function $P(r, R_0, dR)$ is assumed to be a Gaussian one with a

expected R_0 value and half-width dR .

The data fitted to the scatter plots of the micellar samples are shown in the table below.

Sample	PGA0450717	PG0470717
Power function background scaling factor (A)	0.003 ± 0.001	0.004 ± 0.002
Power function background exponent (α)	2.990 ± 0.328	2.813 ± 0.338
Constant background (C; $\text{cm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$)	0.020	0.020
Micelle scattering contribution scaling factor (I_0)*100; ($\text{cm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1}$)	0.028 ± 0.004	0.021 ± 0.005
Average radius of micelles (R_0 ; nm)	2.001 ± 0.266	2.067 ± 0.433
Mean radius distribution parameter of micelles (dR; nm)	0.423 ± 0.122	0.470 ± 0.161

Size- and shape-related parameters of both the micellar part (R_0 , dR) and the crystalline part (exponent α) match well between the two samples within experimental uncertainty, therefore the relative composition weight parameters (I_0 and A) can be compared. The scattering contribution of the micelles, the relative weight of which with respect to the power function background - parameter I_0 - is smaller in the case of the sample PGA0470717, i.e. the sample contains fewer micelles. All other parameters, especially the expected value of 2 nm characterizing the size distribution of the micelles and a half-width close to 0.45 nm, match well for the two samples.

Thus, it has been shown that the difference between the effective and ineffective compositions of the present invention is due to a partial or complete reduction in the amounts of micelles in the phospholipid-containing composition prepared by high shear mixing. The high shear forces disintegrate the phospholipid micelles completely or partially, thus dispersing the phospholipids, which are then no longer form natural micelle form.

Since the SAX method is not suitable for giving either the absolute amounts of micelles or the relative amounts of micelles to total phospholipid, only the production method can characterize the product of the present invention. Thus, the essence of the present invention can be broadly described as any method by which a phospholipid, water and a solvent, preferably water or a C₁-C₄, monohydric alcohol or a mixture thereof with each other or with water, are mixed in such a way that phospholipids It can be said that the mixing must be so intense that the phospholipid micelles cannot form or fall apart under used the mixing forces.

We have also examined the effect of the numbers of HPH homogenization process. We found surprisingly that one HPH homogenization results in a longer pain alleviating effect compared to the reference products which were not homogenized with an HPH homogenizer. The effects seem to be stronger after three or more HPH homogenization steps according to the tests as follows:

Batch No	PGA0980418	PGA0990418	PGA1000418	PGA1040418	PGA1510918
Process type	WE-1	WE-1	WE-1	WE-1	WE-3
Pregabalin (micronized)	15,0000	15,0000	15,0000	15,0000	10,0000
Phospholipid (lecithin)	0,5000	0,5000	0,5000	0,5000	0,2500
number of HPH of lipid phase	1	3	4	9	125
<u>Plantar withdrawal threshold test conditions</u>					
<u>Pregabalin %</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>15%</u>	<u>10%</u>
<u>Area (on MPNL paw)</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>	<u>2 cm²</u>
<u>Amount of composition [μl] (on MPNL paw)</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>
<u>Number of the group (n)</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>

On figure 2 results of the same quantitative compositions homogenized 1, 3, 4, 9 times can be seen. There is some improvement with the increasing number of the HPH homogenization. In the course of the search for the limitation of the procedure we have HPH homogenized a similar composition 125 times. The result shows that the long-lasting effect does not disappear after even that many HPH homogenization steps.

During the development of the present invention, we found surprisingly that the pain alleviation effect can be achieved with compositions having pregabalin content in a very large range, from 3% to 37.5%. Preferably the range of pregabalin content is between 3-15%, more preferably 3-10%, most preferably 5-10%.

[illegible]

<u>Amount of composition [μl] (on MPNL paw)</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>	<u>20 μl</u>
<u>Number of the group (n)</u>	<u>6</u>	6	7	7	8	6

Figure 3 shows the comparative results of compositions PGA1370718, PGA1450718, and PGA1460718. All compositions were effective and based on the results on one hand it seems that the effect is dose proportional. On the other hand, there is no significant difference between the effect of compositions comprising 10% or 15% of pregabalin. Both compositions have high pain alleviation effect at 30 minutes which stays at a high level for at least 5 hours. The effect of the composition containing 5% of pregabalin developed more slowly. After one hour this composition has a strong effect which lasted at least five hours. Comparing compositions PGA1591018 and PGA1601018 modification of other ingredients can facilitate fast absorption. These compositions have similarly fast onset of the effect within 30 minutes and the effect also lasts at least five hours. Furthermore, the composition having 37.5 % of pregabalin also has a long-lasting effect. Obviously, the high pregabalin content makes the composition harder to spread, but the compositions according to the present invention can be used comprising pregabalin in a wide range of concentration.

According to another embodiment of the present invention the process comprises not only homogenization of the lipid phase with high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with HPH homogenizer but also the aqueous suspension of pregabalin. Then the lipid phase homogenized by high shear mixing equipment, most preferably by HPH homogenizer and the aqueous dispersion is also homogenized, which is shown in working example WE-5 below.

According to an advantageous embodiment of the present invention, the process is carried out by preparation of an aqueous mixture which comprises dispersed pregabalin and a phospholipid and optionally other excipients and homogenized together with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times, more preferably 3-5 times.

Particularly the procedure can be carried out as follows: In tenfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to 7.0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

Then in ten times the amount of purified water lecithin (e.g. LIPOID P 75) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then optionally further excipients such as isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized with an aqueous dispersion of pregabalin. Then the thus prepared mixture of dispersed pregabalin and a phospholipid is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times, more preferably 3-5 times. The thus obtained phase containing pregabalin and phospholipid is mixed to the gel phase, then preferably further excipients are added such as coconut oil, decyl oleas, EDTA and benzyl alcohol. If necessary, at the end further rheology modifier is added.

According to another advantageous embodiment of the present invention the process is carried out by preparation of a gelled aqueous mixture which comprises dispersed pregabalin and a phospholipid and optionally other excipients and homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times, more preferably 3-5 times. Particularly, the procedure can be carried out as follows: In tenfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH 7,0 is adjusted by adding aqueous ammonia solution. Then in tenfold amount of purified water lecithin (e.g. LIPOID P 75) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then optionally further excipients such as isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized with an aqueous dispersion of pregabalin. Then the thus obtained mixture is mixed into previously prepared gel phase and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably an HPH homogenizer 1-125 times, preferably 3-10 times, more preferably 3-5 times. If necessary further excipients are added such as coconut oil, decyl oleas, EDTA and benzyl alcohol to the composition. If necessary, at the end further rheology modifier is added.

Furthermore, we found surprisingly, that in the case when the lipid phase and then the whole mixture with pregabalin is also homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer, the thus obtained product has even stronger and longer effect compared to the compounds in which the lipid phase was homogenized by a high pressure homogenizer:

Batch No	PGA1601018	PGA2150619	PGA2211119*
Process type	WE-2	WE-4	WE-4
Pregabaline	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000

	(micronized)	(ground)	(micronized)
Phospholipid (lecithin)	1.0000	0.5000	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Octyldodecanol	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coconut oil	10.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Benzyl alcohol	2.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Carbomers (Carbopol 980)	0.3750	0.4000	0.4000
Ammonia solution	0.2940	0.3136	0.3136
All ingredients	30.1715	23.7161	23.7161
Purified water	69.8285	76.2839	76.2839
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00
number of HPH of lipid phase	5	5	5
number of HPH of other composition	0	+3	+3
Plantar withdrawal threshold test conditions			
Pregabalin %	5%	5%	5%
Area (on MPNL paw)	2 cm ²	2 cm ²	2 cm ²
Amount of composition [μl] (on MPNL paw)	20 μl	20 μl	20 μl
Number of the group (n)	6	6	6

Comparing the pain alleviation effects of composition PGA1601018 (WE-2 process, results on figure 3) in which the lipid phase was homogenized only 5 times to the composition PGA2150619 (WE-4 process, results on figure 4) in which not only the lipid phase but the whole composition – before the addition of a rheology modifier - was homogenized 5 times, we found that the effect was stronger after 30 minutes and after five hours the difference between the stimulus intensity between the intact paw and MPNL paw was significantly smaller

in the case of PGA2150619 than in the case of PGA1601018 under the same circumstances. Furthermore, we have examined the effect of the particle size of pregabalin used. We found surprisingly that micronized pregabalin has stronger effect. During the development we compared the effects of compositions PGA2150619 and PGA2211119. The only difference between the compositions was that PGA2211119 comprises smaller, micronized particles of pregabalin. In Figure 4 it is shown that the smaller particle size of the product increases the effect of the composition. Therefore, in a preferable embodiment of the present invention the pregabalin used is micronized. According to a preferable embodiment of the present invention the pregabalin used as starting material is ground, which means that the D₉₀ particle size of the pregabalin used is less than 200 micrometer, preferably between 20-200 micrometer. More preferably, micronized pregabalin is used as starting material, which has a D₉₀ less than 20 micrometer.

D₉₀ is the parameter that gives a value less than 90% of the particle size of the test substance that can be determined by laser diffraction particle size determination. The method of determination is given in the experimental section.

We have examined the duration of the effect of compositions of the present invention. We found that the compositions of the present invention have longer pain alleviation effect than 5 hours which was our aim to be achieved. For example, we found that PGA2211119 has significant pain alleviation effect even after 8 hours (Figure 5).

During the development of the topical pregabalin formulation, it was suggested that not only the effect of treatment of the target area, i.e. the reduction of mechanical hypersensitivity in the neuropathic area, but also the systemic efficacy / effect should be investigated. These studies were also performed in a mouse model of neuropathy. Treatments in these experiments were not applied to the neuropathic leg but farther away from the other (left) hind leg or the shaved back. In each case, the cream was applied by massaging for 1 minute - or until the cream was absorbed. The size of the treatment surfaces was ~2 cm² for the foot and ~2 or ~6 cm² for the upper part of the back, close to neck.

According to our experiments the topical administration of pregabalin has only a slight systemic effect using the test method described above. For example, the composition of PGA2211119 (5% pregabalin content) used in a dose of 20 µl on 2 cm² of the surface of MPNL paw has significant and long-lasting pain alleviation effect for 5 or even for 8 hours (Figure 5). In the case when 2.5 times the amount of the experimental dose of pregabalin of composition of

PGA2211119 (50 μ l) is applied on the upper part of the back, close to neck of the mouse on a 2 cm² surface, there is no significant pain alleviating effect on the MPNL paw. This shows that no significant amount of pregabalin is absorbed this way so that enough pregabalin gets into the blood stream triggering a systemic pain alleviation effect. Furthermore, even if the 2.5 times therapeutic dose is applied on a 6 cm² surface on a mouse's upper part of the back, close to neck area which is a considerable part of the full surface of the mouse, there is no significant effect. (see Figure 6.).

Thus, the compositions of the present invention are effective in the treatment of neuropathic pain. According to our experiments on Wistar rats weighing 280-300 g, approx. pregabalin 16.6 mg / kg was administered to the rats which were underwent CCI surgery and showed neuropathic plantar sensitivity on 4 cm² surface area of the operated sole of rats. When the 5-15% composition of the present invention is applied, the hypersensitivity of the operated paw of the animal soon disappears and the analgesic effect begins to decrease only after 5 hours, i.e. even after five hours the analgesic effect of the composition is significant. It is also possible to apply an amount of 33.3 mg of 15% PGA0470717 or 50.0 mg of 10% PGA2330320 or 100.0 mg of 5% PGA1601018 composition of the present invention to an area of 4 cm² of the sole of the paw. Since topical administration of the compositions of the present invention at 16.6 mg / kg in rats remains effective for at least 5 hours, although oral administration of the same amount does not cause pain, suggests that in the case of the topical administration of the present invention requires less pregabalin than it is administered orally. Because our pharmacokinetic experiments show that pregabalin enters the bloodstream in very small amounts during topical treatment, it is expected that less pregabalin will be required in humans compared to oral administration, so the side effects of pregabalin would not appear besides the reduction in neuropathic pain.

In summary, compositions of the present invention have long-lasting pain alleviation effect by topical treatment of a composition containing pregabalin without systemic side effects. Therefore, it can be an alternative for patients who have oral pregabalin treatment for pain alleviation of different types of pain such as neuropathic pain, in peripheral neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by diabetic patients or by patients who have had herpes zoster (shingles), and central neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by patients who have had a spinal-cord injury; diabetic neuropathy, causalgia, brachial plexus avulsion, occipital neuralgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, fibromyalgia, gout, phantom limb pain, bum pain, and

other forms of neuralgic, neuropathic, and idiopathic pain syndromes, preferable for the treatment neuropathy, diabetic neuropathy, peripheral neuropathic pain, post herpetic pain, most preferably neuropathic pain, preferably peripheral neuropathic pain or post herpetic neuralgia (PHN).

As we disclosed above, the crucial feature of the present invention is that the composition contains a phospholipid as absorption enhancer in a special processed form, namely the used phospholipid, or at least a portion of it has to be mixed and homogenized with a solvent by using an HPH homogenizer or an equipment which can provide similar circumstances.

According to our researches, the high shear forces due to the powerful movement of the fluid comprising the phospholipid modify the phospholipid structure in the mixture in such a way that the new structure is stable for a long time and results in good absorption of pregabalin and an extended period of pain alleviating effect even when pregabalin is dispersed in the composition. According to our theory, the number of micelles is reduced significantly because of the high shearing effect of high shear mixing, most preferably HPH homogenization.

Therefore, the present invention further provides a composition comprising a pregabalin and a phospholipid a topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process in which the phospholipid and the a solvent-containing mixture with a high shear mixing equipment, preferably an HPH homogenizer, microfluidizer, ultrasonic homogenizer, bead mill, slit homogenizer, colloid mill, high shear mixer, more preferably HPH homogenizer, microfluidizer, with ultrasonic homogenizer, most preferably with HPH homogenizer most preferably homogenised with a high-pressure homogenizer and where pregabalin is in dispersed form. According to the invention, the phospholipids can be homogenized at any stage of the process with a high shear mixing equipment, preferably an HPH homogenizer, a microfluidizer, an ultrasonic homogenizer, a bead mill, a slit homogenizer, a colloid mill, a high shear mixer, more preferably with HPH homogenizer, microfluidizer, ultrasonic homogenizer, most preferably an HPH homogenizer. Pregabalin may be added in any step of the present invention in an amount that is not completely soluble. Thus, the insoluble portion of pregabalin is dispersed as solid particles in the mixture.

Thus, our invention also relates a process for the preparation of topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin and a phospholipid in which

- a phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents are homogenized with a high shearing effect of high shear mixing, most preferably high pressure homogenizer and pregabalin is admixed to the composition, or
 - the phospholipid, solvent and pregabalin are mixed and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer, wherein
- the thus obtained composition comprises pregabalin in dispersed form.

The preparation of such a composition which comprises besides pregabalin a mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent processed with a high shearing effect of high shear mixing, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer or an equipment capable of producing a similar effect on said mixture and further excipients, can be performed in several different procedures depending e.g. on the dosing sequence of the ingredients. During our experimental work we found that the dosing sequence is indifferent from the point of view of the result. For example, we can homogenize the phospholipid with or without pregabalin or any other excipients. The essence is that by the end of the procedure, the phospholipid at least in the presence of the solvent and at least once, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times has to be processed by HPH or with a high shear mixing equipment having a similar effect.

In a preferable embodiment the composition of the present invention comprises an additional rheology modifier. In other words, the composition of the present invention can be formed into a gel, cream or gel-cream by adding a rheology modifier to the composition.

Our aim by adding the rheology modifier is that a cream, gel, or gel-cream can be administered topically as a fluid. Furthermore, the composition comprises dispersed pregabalin and the dispersion is more easily stabilized in a composition comprising a rheology modifier, such as a poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid), preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomers. If the gel phase is added to the composition before the high shear mixing, preferably HPH homogenization process, it may be necessary to add a further rheology modifier to reform the gel, cream or gel-cream form of the composition because the high shearing forces can destroy the gel, cream or gel-cream form.

More particularly, the topical pharmaceutical composition can be prepared in a way that

- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier is added, and to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, or the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or
- a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, then a rheology modifier is added, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, and the thus obtained mixture is added to a mixture of pregabalin and optionally other excipients which has been homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer separately, then a rheology modifier is added if necessary, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier is added, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then if necessary, a further rheology modifier or excipients are added.

Thus, our invention relates the process described above for example in such a way that

- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier is added, and to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, or

- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, then a rheology modifier is added, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, and
the thus obtained mixture is added to a mixture of pregabalin and optionally other excipients which pregabalin comprising mixture has been homogenized with an HPH homogenizer separately, then a rheology modifier is added if necessary, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier is added, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then if necessary further rheology modifier or excipients are added.

According to another embodiment of the present invention, the topical pharmaceutical composition is obtainable by a process which can be carried out in a way that the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, pregabalin and optionally other excipients are homogenized and

- homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and is then homogenized, or
- a rheology modifier is added, and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with HPH homogenizer, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized.

Thus, our invention relates to the process described above for example in which the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, pregabalin and optionally other excipients are homogenized and

- - then homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or
- a rheology modifier is added, and thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixer, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized.

According to the present invention the topical composition is obtainable by a process in which the mixture comprising a phospholipid, a solvent or a mixture of solvents and optionally pregabalin and other excipients are homogenized with a high pressure homogenizer at least 1 time, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times.

Thus, the process for the preparation of the topical pharmaceutical composition can be carried out as described above in which the process comprises a high shear mixing process, most preferably with the HPH homogenization of the mixture of a phospholipid, a solvent or a mixture of solvents and optionally pregabalin and other excipients where the high pressure homogenization is carried out at least 1 time, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times.

According to the present invention the topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to the present invention comprises more than 2.5 weight % of pregabalin and 0.1-5 weight % of high pressure homogenized phospholipid and pregabalin are in dispersed form in the composition.

More particularly, according to the present invention the topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to the present invention comprises 2.5-40 weight %, preferably 3-20 weight %, more preferably 3-15 weight %, most preferably 5-10 weight % of pregabalin and 0.1-3 weight %, preferably 0.1-1.5 weight %, most preferably 0.1-1.2 weight % of a phospholipid where the pregabalin is in dispersed form.

Thus, during the process more than 2.5 weight % of pregabalin is added to the composition and 0.1-5 weight % of phospholipid is added and homogenized with an HPH homogenizer.

According to the preferable embodiment of the present invention the thus obtained mixture is formed to gel, cream or gel-cream form.

More particularly, the process according to the present invention is carried out in such a way that 2.5-40 weight %, preferably 3-20 weight %, more preferably 3-15 weight %, most preferably 5-10 weight % of pregabalin is added and 0.1-3 weight %, preferably 0.1-1.5 weight %, most preferably 0.1-1.2 weight % of phospholipid is added and homogenized with an HPH equipment. According to the preferable embodiment of the present invention the thus obtained mixture is formed to gel, cream or gel-cream form.

As we mentioned above the topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to the present invention may comprise further excipients e.g. 40-90 weight %, preferably, 70-90 weight %, most preferably 75-85 weight % of solvent, 0-20 weight %, preferably 0.1-20 weight %, more preferably 2-15 weight %, most preferably 3-10 weight % of emollient, 0-20 weight %, preferably 0.1-20 weight %, more preferably 2-15 weight %, most preferably 3-10 weight % of penetration enhancer, 0-20% weight %, preferably 0.1-20 weight %, more preferably 0.1-20, or 0.1-5 weight %, even more preferably 0.1-2 weight %, most preferably 0.2-0.5 weight % of a rheology modifier or a mixture thereof.

For the preparation of a topical composition according to the present invention preferably the above-mentioned excipients can be used. More preferably, the topical composition according to the present invention is obtainable by a process mentioned above with the use of the above-mentioned excipients.

Thus, according to the present invention for the preparation of the topical composition according to the process mentioned above we can use preferably

as phospholipid natural or synthetic phospholipids, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75,

as solvents water, pharmaceutically acceptable C₂-C₄ alcohols, more preferably ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, iso-butanol, alcohols having more than one hydroxyl group, preferably glycerol, propylene glycol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol or a mixture thereof,

as emollient vitamins A, D, and E, lanolin, lanolin alcohol, propylene glycol di-benzoate, vegetable oils, plant extracts, fatty alcohol esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, synthetic polymers, silicon compounds, fatty acids, mineral oil derivatives, waxes or a mixture thereof,

most preferably as fatty acid ester cetyl palmitate, fatty alcohols as octyldodecanol, as fatty acid derivative Decylis oleas, as vegetable oil coconut oil,

as penetration enhancer besides the phospholipid, C₂-C₄ alcohols, DL-alpha-tocopherol, or a mixture thereof,

as preservative EDTA, EDTA derivatives, aromatic preservatives such as para-hydroxy benzoates, thimerosal, chlorohexidine benzyl alcohol and benzalkonium chloride, preferably benzyl alcohol, more preferably a mixture of benzyl alcohol and EDTA,

as rheology modifier poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid) preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, carbomers,

as pH modifier preferably base type pH modifier, more preferably ammonia, ammonium solution, alkali or alkali earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, hydro-carbonates, or organic bases, such as primary, secondary or tertiary amines, most preferably aqueous ammonia solution.

The topical composition of the present invention can be prepared by a process in which

- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldodecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably aqueous ammonium solution, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas [T111] and

preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives, preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed, then the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, or
- the mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, and the thus obtained mixture is admixed to
a mixture of pregabalin and a solvent preferably water and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably decylis oleas and preservatives, preferably an aqueous EDTA solution which mixture has been separately homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH

homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then

the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably aqueous ammonium solution, or

- the mixture of phospholipid with a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives, preferably an aqueous EDTA solution, are added to the lipid phase then

the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980), hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, or

- a mixture of a phospholipid and a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol is

homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers, preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, then pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then if necessary a further rheology modifier or excipients are added to the mixture.

According to a preferable embodiment the topical composition of the present invention can be obtained by the process in which

- the mixture of a phospholipid, pregabalin and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably a mixture of water and ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then
- the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar

gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

the mixture of a phospholipid, pregabalin and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably a mixture of water and ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol is homogenized with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times using pressure between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then

the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably aqueous ammonium solution and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and in the case of using HPH homogenizer, the used pressure is between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized.

The HPH homogenization process is crucial for the preparation of the present invention. During our experimental work, we used a range of pressure between 500-2000 bar, more preferably 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar.

The process for the homogenization was carried out by EmulsiFlex-C3 homogenizer produced by AVESTIN, Inc. (2450 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1H 1E1) and followed the instructions of the manufacturer. Essentially, the sample was put into the sample chamber then the homogenizer was set on. Generally, the used pressure of homogenization was 1000-1500 bar, but the procedure can be carried out also at 2000 bar. After the homogenization had finished, the sample was put back to the sample chamber for further homogenization if it was

necessary. The homogenization was repeated from 1 to 125 times as mentioned above. In the case when a mixture is homogenized several times, it may be useful to carry out pre-homogenization by using lower homogenizing pressure between 500-800 bar for the first two homogenization steps. The applicable pressure also depends on the geometry of the device, and the applicable pressure can be determined by a person skilled in the art with knowledge of the device. Of course, the fragmentation and disintegration of micelles with other shredding equipment well known in the pharmaceutical and food industries is exemplified by the use of five devices in Example WE-4/B. Each of the formulations had a significant effect even in the fifth hour after treatment, according to our experiments. The application and utilization of the individual high-shear mixing equipment and the optimization of the application parameters are within the general knowledge of the person skilled in the art.

In cases where a high shear mixing equipment is used several times during the preparation, different types of mixers may be used in each step.

The batch mixing devices used in the examples of the present invention. If they are carried out in a recirculation device by feeding them from a stirred tank to a high-shear mixer / homogenizer and then feeding the resulting mixture back into a mixing tank, it can be calculated from the amount of the mixture mixed. how long it would take to mix the whole mass at once in the case of batch operation. Multiply this by the number of agitations required to properly homogenize the given composition in the case of batch operation. However, due to the geometry and mixing properties of the storage tank, the experience with homogenization processes is that in such a case, precisely because the already homogenized product mixes with the not yet homogenized material, it usually takes longer to fully homogenize than previously calculated. This is usually 1.5-2 times the time, but it strongly depends on the geometry of the storage tank used and the efficiency of the stirrer used in it, as well as the flow conditions prevailing there. One skilled in the art will be able to transfer the methods of the invention to such devices based on his general knowledge.

The process for the preparation of a topical composition can be carried out by using equipment generally used in the pharmaceutical industry. The selection and use of these equipment form part of the knowledge of the person skilled in the art. The optimization of the process for the available equipment is also part of the knowledge of the person skilled in the art. Further information on the used technological steps are generally described e.g. in Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Technology, Third Edition, (© 2007 by Informa Healthcare USA, Inc.). Different types of and operational parameters and use of high pressure homogenizers are also

fully described in the chapter Homogenization and homogenizers on pages 1996-2003 of Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Technology, Third Edition (© 2007 by Informa Healthcare USA, Inc.). Selection, use and optimization of the use of any commercially available different high pressure homogenizer is part of the knowledge of the person skilled in the art.

According to a more preferable embodiment of the present invention, the composition can be obtained by a process mentioned above by using ground pregabalin as active ingredient. More preferably, micronized pregabalin is used. Thus, the used pregabalin is preferably ground, having a D₉₀ of particle size of ground pregabalin between 20-200 micrometer, more preferably the used pregabalin is micronized having a D₉₀ of particle size below 20 micrometer.

In the methods of the present invention, pregabalin may be added to the composition either in solid form, as a powder, or even as a suspension during the preparation of the composition.

Taking into consideration that elevation of the temperature changes pregabalin in the solvent and since the high shear mixing processes including HPH homogenization involve heat generation, in preferable embodiments of the present invention the temperature of the mixture of the present invention during the HPH homogenization is kept between 0-50 °C, preferably 20-45 °C, most preferably 25-35 °C.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention the phospholipids are swelled before use. Thus, according to the present invention the mixture of the phospholipid is prepared by swelling the phospholipid, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75, with 10-30 fold preferably 1-20 fold of weight amount water by the weight of phospholipid and the thus obtained swollen phospholipid is mixed with other excipients to form the lipid phase.

In a preferred embodiment the phospholipid is swelled in 5-25 preferably 10-20 fold water calculated on the weight of the used phospholipid between 25-40 °C, preferably between 25-35 °C, then the thus obtained swollen mixture is used as phospholipid mixture. The swelling process takes 0,1-24 hours, preferably 0,3-3 hours. In a preferred embodiment this mixture can be directly homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with a high pressure homogenizer, or before the high shear mixing process, most preferably with high-pressure homogenization other excipients such as emollients and penetration enhancer(s) are added then homogenized by a high pressure homogenizer. According to a further embodiment, the thus obtained swollen phospholipid mixture can be mixed and homogenized with other excipients and pregabalin and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear

mixing equipment, most preferably with an high pressure homogenizer. According to the most preferable embodiment of the present invention the swollen phospholipid mixture is homogenized preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times with high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then added to the gel phase, the thus obtained mixture is mixed with an aqueous dispersion of pregabalin and the thus obtained composition is homogenized preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times with high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer.

Similarly, preferably the gel phase is also prepared by swelling the gel then the thus swollen gel phase is added to the composition. More particularly, the gel phase is prepared by swelling the rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water in an amount of 10-30 times, preferably 1-20 times of weight amount solvent, preferably water by the weight of rheology modifier and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary. The swelling process takes 6-24 hours, preferably 8-12 hours.

In a preferred embodiment the gel phase is prepared by swelling the rheology modifier with 5-25 preferably 10-20 times water calculated on the weight of the used rheology modifier. As rheology modifier polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid) and vegetable gums, preferably carbomers, most preferably carbomers (carbomer 980) are used. Optionally, the pH of the thus obtained gelled mixture is neutralized by addition of a pH modifier. In the case of the use of carbomers, most preferably carbomer 980, a basic pH modifier is used. Such pH modifiers e.g. ammonia, ammonium solution, preferably aqueous ammonium solution, alkali or alkali earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, hydro-carbonates, or organic bases, such as primary, secondary or tertiary amines, most preferably aqueous ammonia solution can be used. According to the most preferable procedure carbomer 980 is swelled in tenfold or twentyfold weight of water based on the weight of carbomer at room temperature, for 3-24 hours, preferably 3-12 hours, more preferably 5-8 hours, then the gelled mixture is neutralized with aqueous ammonia solution at room temperature.

In the case of use vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum, the gum is swelled in tenfold or twentyfold weight of water based on the weight of vegetable gum, preferably xanthan gum is swelled at an elevated temperature between 40-100 °C, preferably 50-70 °C more preferably at

60 °C then the thus obtained mixture cooled to at room temperature and homogenized. In the case of use hydroxyalkyl cellulose, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose, the hydroxyalkyl cellulose is swelled in tenfold or twentyfold weight of water based on the weight of hydroxyalkyl cellulose, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose is swelled at elevated temperature between 35-40 °C, at 37 °C then the thus obtained mixture cooled to at room temperature (25 °C) and homogenized. In the case of use poloxamer, preferably poloxamer 407 the poloxamer is swelled in water then kept in refrigerator between 5-10 °C for 24 hours, then it is let to warm et room temperature.

The thus obtained neutralized gel can be added either to the mixture comprising phospholipid before or after the HPH homogenization. Or, the thus obtained gelled mixture can be mixed with pregabalin or a mixture comprising pregabalin before or after a HPH homogenization process, or the gelled mixture can be added to a mixture which comprises phospholipid and pregabalin either before or after the high pressure homogenization step.

The topical pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention can be used for the treatment of neuropathic pain, in peripheral neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by diabetic patients or by patients who have had herpes zoster (shingles), and central neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by patients who have had a spinal-cord injury; diabetic neuropathy, causalgia, brachial plexus avulsion, occipital neuralgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, fibromyalgia, gout, phantom limb pain, bum pain, and other forms of neuralgic, neuropathic, and idiopathic pain syndromes, preferably for the treatment neuropathy, diabetic neuropathy, peripheral neuropathic pain, post herpetic pain.

According to the present invention in the composition the phospholipids are dispersed and solid pregabalin particles are also dispersed. The dispersed phospholipid is an emulsion. The composition is formed to a gel, cream or gel-cream form by adding the rheology modifier. The solid form of pregabalin can be either crystalline or amorphous.

The advantage of the present invention over the prior art compositions resides in that the topical pharmaceutical composition according to the present invention has a long-lasting pain alleviating effect, at least 5 or 8 hours without serious systemic effects. It can be used on a large surface of the body which is very important in the case of the treatment of neuropathic pain.

A further advantage of the present invention is that the compositions obtained have long shelf life. The compositions are stable at room temperature for even more than 1 year. It is surprising that the effect of the HPH homogenization persists for a long time.

There is no severe systemic effect of the composition which is very important in the case of treatment of Diabetic neuropathy (DPN) in which the affected body surface can reach about 28% of the body surface.

The composition obtained by the present invention lets the patients having neuropathic pain achieve an eight-hour sleeping period.

Figures:

Figure 1: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 2180719 (pregabalin 2,5%, 50 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=6), both paw

PGA 2190719 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=7), both paw

PGA 0450717 (pregabalin 15%, 50 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 0470717 (pregabalin 15%, 50 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1601018 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1601018 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), MPN litigated paw

Figure 2: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 0980418 (pregabalin 15%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 0990418 (pregabalin 15%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1000418 (pregabalin 15%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1040418 (pregabalin 15%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1040418 (pregabalin 15%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), MPN litigated paw

PGA 1510918 (pregabalin 10%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1510918 (pregabalin 10%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), MPN litigated paw

Figure 3: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 1591018 (pregabalin 10%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1601018 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

PGA 1520918 (pregabalin 37.5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

Comparative plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

Comparison of effects of PGA1460718 (5%), PGA1450718 (10%), PGA1370718 (15%)

(20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), MPN litigated paw

Figure 4: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 2211119 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=7), both paw

PGA 2150619 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=6), both paw

Figure 5: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 2211119 (pregabalin 5%, 20 μ l/right paw, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=8), both paw

PGA 2211119 (pregabalin 5%, 50 μ l/2 cm² on skin of the upper part of the back towards the neck, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n=8), both paw

Figure 6: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

PGA 2211119 (pregabalin 5%, 50 μ l/6 cm² on skin of the upper part of the back towards the neck, Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both paw

Figure 7: FTEM test pictures of PGA0470717 and PGA0450717

Figure 8: EmulsiFlex-C3 type high pressure homogenizer.

Figure 9: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 21 days after CCI surgery in rats (5 mg pregabalin/4 cm² in 50 μ l 10% cream) Values are mean $\pm$ S.E.M., n=15 two-way Bonferroni's ****p<0.0001) (example 3).

Figure 10: Figure results of formalin test of neuropathic pain in rats

Figure 10/A Mean values $\pm$ S.E.M. of Sum of pain score of P-1 (PGA0440717) placebo composition used in 0.1 ml /paw and R-3 (PGA0450717) reference gel 0.1 ml /paw, in the total time of the test and the second phase (from 16 to 45 min) of the test.

Figure 10/B Mean values $\pm$ S.E.M. of Sum of pain score of P-2 (PGA0460717) placebo composition used in 0.1 ml /paw and WE-1 (PGA0470717) reference gel 0.1 ml /paw, in the total time of the test and the second phase (from 16 to 45 min) of the test.

Figure 11 Absorption of pregabalin cream from the surface of topically treated ex vivo pig skin

11/a.: Photo of the surface of the pig skin before the treatment.

11/b.: Photo of the surface of the pig skin immediately after the treatment with gel comprising 5% pregabalin (PGA 1601018 (WE-2) left side) and a gel comprising 10% of pregabalin (PGA 1591018 (WE-2) right side).

11/c.: Photo of the surface of the pig skin 1 hour after the treatment with gel (PGA 1601018 (WE-2) left side) and (PGA 1591018 (WE-2) right side).

11/d.: Photo of the surface of the pig skin 3 hours after the treatment with gel (PGA 1601018 (WE-2) left side) and (PGA 1591018 (WE-2) right side).

11/e.: Microscopic picture (1:10) of the surface of the pig skin before the treatment.

11/f.: Microscopic picture (1:10) of the surface of the pig skin 2 hours after the treatment with gel (PGA 1601018 (WE-2) left side) and (PGA 1591018 (WE-2) right side).

Figure 12. Absorption of pregabalin cream compared to Neogramornon® and Mometasone Medimer® from topically treated ex vivo porcine skin

12-I: Photo of the surface of the pig skin before the treatment.

12-II: Photo of the surface of the pig skin immediately after the treatment with gel comprising 5% pregabalin (PGA 1671118 left side, A column), Neogramornon® (B column) and Mometasone Medimer® (C column)

12-III: Photo of the surface of the pig skin one hour after the treatment with gel comprising 5% pregabalin (PGA 1671118 left side, A column), Neogramornon® (B column) and Mometasone Medimer® (C column)

12-IV: Photo of the surface of the pig skin three hours after the treatment with gel comprising 5% pregabalin (PGA 1671118 left side, A column), Neogramornon® (B column) and Mometasone Medimer® (C column)

Figure 13: Comparison of different high shear mixing equipments:

13 /a PGA 2310320 (WE-4, HPH) vs AL 2980521 (WE-4 / B, IKA colloid mill) vs AL 2990521 (WE-4/B IKA high shear mixer) Plantar withdrawal threshold MPNL mice mean values + S.E.M. (group 6-7 mice) dosage 10µl / paw, 5% pregabaline compositions, Two-way ANOVA, Dunnett vs 0: * p <0.06 main column effect: 231/299: p <0.06

13/B: AL 3010521 (WE-4/B, SONIC SVCX-500 Ultrahangos készülék) Plantar withdrawal threshold MPNL mice mean values + S.E.M. (group 6 mice) dosage 10 µl/paw, 5% pregabalin compositions, Two-way RM ANOVA, Bonferroni: * $p < 0.05$

13/C: 13/a AL 2970521 (WE-4 / B, DYNO mill) vs AL 3020521 (WE-4 / B Microfluidizer) Plantar withdrawal threshold MPNL mice mean values + S.E.M. (group 7-9 mice) dosage 10 µl / paw, 5% pregabalin compositions, Two-way ANOVA, Dunnett vs 0: * $p < 0.05$ Effect of type of homogenization 231 vs 297: + $p < 0.05$

Figure 14: SAXS curves of samples PGA0450717, PGA0470717 and curves of fitted functions.

Figure 15: Stephan UMC 5 electronic homogenizer, 15/A top view, 15/B top view with scraper knife and 15/C schematic drawing.

Our invention is illustrated in a more detailed manner by the following examples without limiting the scope of our invention to these examples:

Example 1.

Mouse model of neuropathic pain

Animals

The experiments were performed in NMRI male mice (Toxi-Coop Ltd). The initial weight of animals was between 25-35 g. All animals were housed in plastic cages, under standard laboratory conditions (24 ± 2 °C room temperature, 40-60 % relative humidity) with free access to standard laboratory pellet for mice and tap water. They were kept on a 12-hours light/dark cycle with light onset at 06:00 AM. Animals were transferred to the testing room at least 1 hour before the experiments and they were used only once. The animal care and testing procedures were done in accordance with the Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and with the Hungarian 1998. XXVIII. Act on the Protection Welfare of Animals.

Method

Medial plantar nerve ligation (MPNL) model

Under chloral hydrate anaesthesia (400 mg/kg i.p.), the skin on the medial surface of the right ankle of mice were incised (in a length of 0.5 cm) to expose the medial plantar nerve. After exposure of the nerve, two ligations on this nerve were performed with a 5-0 thread (Seralon,

SERAG-WIESSNER, Germany). The ligations were tied in a way as to be bound tightly to the nerve without throttling them. Then a 4-0 silk thread was used to close the wound.

Nociceptive test

A week after the medial plantar nerve ligation, animals were placed one by one into small (12x12x15 cm) plastic cages with wire grid floor. The cages were elevated and were illuminated from below. After an at least 30 minute long habituation period the base plantar withdrawal thresholds (PWT) were evaluated on the left and right hind paws using von Frey filaments (Touch-Test Sensory Evaluators, North Coast Medical Inc. USA). Briefly, a set of 8 calibrated monofilaments that provide an approximately logarithmic scale of actual force (von Frey filament sizes: 0.008, 0.02, 0.04, 0.07, 0.16, 0.4, 0.6 and 1.0 g) were applied to determine the threshold stiffness of the filament that was required to elicit a paw withdrawal response. First, for baseline determination three measurements were done using ascending series of filaments, then two measurements were done at the following time points. Animals which did not show mechanical allodynia at the baseline measurement were excluded from the test. After the baseline measurement the test material was administered either topically, intraperitoneally or per os. The PWT measurements were repeated on each hind paw at 0.5, 1, 3 and 5 (6, 7, 8 at longer experiments) hours after the administration of test material.

Measured parameter

Von Frey filament size which induced the paw withdrawal behaviour. The plantar withdrawal threshold is the mean of the withdrawal behaviour inducing filament sizes / time point expressed in grams.

Statistical analysis

Two-way ANOVA followed by Bonferroni's post hoc tests were used for comparing the PWT-values for both sides at all time points. Repeated measured one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's tests were used to compare the PWT data for one side (vs base). $P < 0.05$ was considered as significant.

Example 2.

Investigation of systemic effect topical compositions used in mouse model of neuropathic pain

Method:

Our studies were performed in a mouse model of neuropathy (according to example 1) in which neuropathic symptoms were developed surgically on the right hind leg (medial plantar nerve ligation, MPNL). Mechanical hypersensitivity characteristic of neuropathy developed within one week as a result of surgery. The sensitivity of the operated, right sole increases, which can be verified with von Frey fibers. The fibers can be used to determine the plantar withdrawal threshold (PWT) on both hind legs. After determining the base sensitivity of the hind soles, we treated the selected area - left leg or the upper part of the back towards the neck (massage, for a maximum of 1 minute). After treatment: at ½, 1, 3, and 5 h, the lifting thresholds of the two hind feet were determined again.

Example 3.**Effect of topical pregabalin cream in rat model of neuropathy****Animals**

The animals were housed in plastic cages, under standard laboratory conditions (24 ± 2 °C, 40-60 % relative humidity) with free access to standard laboratory pellet for rats and tap water. They were kept on a 12-hours light/dark cycle with light onset at 06:00 AM

Method**Chronic constriction injury (CCI) model:**

Experimentally induced peripheral neuropathy was performed by the procedure described by Bennett and Xie (Bennett GJ, Xie YK. Pain., A peripheral mononeuropathy in rat that produces disorders of pain sensation like those seen in man. 1988 Apr;33(1):87-107). Briefly, under isoflurane anesthesia small blunt dissection was made into the skin of rat right thigh then three loosely constrictive ligatures were placed around common sciatic nerve (chronic constriction injury CCI). Three weeks following nerve injury rats were assessed for hind paw mechanical withdrawal thresholds. The paw withdrawal threshold (PWT) was determined with an Electronic von Frey device according to the modified up-down method of Dixon (Efficient analysis of experimental observations., Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol. 1980; 20:441-62). At least 20 g difference should be existed between left and operated right PWT. The animals showing the absence of significant difference between left and operated right PWT were excluded from the experiments.

Different doses of topical pregabalin formulations were used to assess the amelioration of hypersensitivity caused by CCI induced neuropathic pain.

Results:

Significant reduction in PWT (paw withdrawal threshold) was measured following CCI induced neuropathy (base). After administration of 50 μ l, 10% pregabalin cream (PGA2330320) no significant differences could be detected between intact and injured paws.

The dose was: 5 mg pregabalin/4 cm² in 50 μ l 10% cream.

Data for Figure 9: Foot withdrawal thresholds 21 days after CCI surgery in rats (5 mg pregabalin / 4 cm², 50 μ l 10% cream) mean $\pm$ SEM, n = 15 for both feet (two-way ANOVA, Bonferroni's * p < 0.05, **** p < 0.0001)

PGA2330320	Intact leg	Intact leg	CCI operated leg	CCI operated leg	number of rats
T	Average	SEM	Average	SEM	n
Base	95.17	3.04	58.35	4.29	15
+1 h	83.50	4.62	81.67	4.28	15
+3 h	89.61	5.07	81.76	6.32	15
+5 h	96.79	6.39	76.57	5.66	15

Although oral administration of 16.66 mg/kg resulted in relatively high blood levels based on pharmacokinetic studies, this amount of pregabalin was not able to reduce hypersensitivity. (Topical pregabalin does not reduce hypersensitivity systemically with high blood levels. It has local effect.)

Example 4

Effect of topical application of pregabalin cream in a rat model of formalin-induced neuropathy

Method:

As a result of injection of formalin injected into the hind paw of the rat we found a two-phase pain response in the animals, which is scored based on their behavior: the first phase is the direct tissue damage of formalin, which is approximately lasts for 10 minutes, and after a short rest period (5 minutes) the animal experiences a second severe pain due to the inflammation in the leg, which can take up to 1-1.5 hours. The test was developed to test for non-steroidal anti-

inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), in which NSAIDs mainly inhibit the second phase, but the test has also been shown to test drugs for the treatment of neuropathic pain. (A Ellis: The rat formalin test: Can it predict neuropathic pain treatments? Proceedings of Measuring Behavior 2008.).

Animals:

Our experiments were performed on male Wistar rats weighing 240-300 g.

Experiment:

0.1 ml of test composition was applied to the right hind paw of the animals and the animals' feet were wrapped with Folpack (occlusive treatment). After treatment, the rats were placed in an 18 cm diameter, 40 cm high glass measuring cylinder suitable for observing their behavior. After 55 minutes, the Folpack of the legs was removed and returned to the measuring cylinder. After another 5 minutes, 0.05 ml of a 1% formalin solution was injected subcutaneously into the plantar surface of the treated (right hind) legs.

We began to observe the painful behavior of the animals immediately and every minute for 45 min. For each minute, the score for the most severe pain behavior of the period was determined based on the following criteria:

0 points: tolerates own weight on the paw injected with formalin,

1 point: has less load on the injected foot, just relaxes the foot, keeps the weight on the opposite side, limbs while moving,

2 points: keeps the treated foot raised that does not come into contact with the base,

3 points: lick, bite, shake the injected foot.

The scores obtained in this way were evaluated in two ways: the points experienced in 45 minutes were added together (total time), and the data were summed between 16 and 45 minutes (phase 2). Statistical evaluation was performed using Student's t-test.

Measurement:

The P-1 placebo gel (PGA0440717) and the R-3 (PGA0450717) reference composition containing 15% pregabalin were compared according to the above protocol. Both compositions were tested in groups of 8-8 rats by treating each animal with 0.1 ml of P-1 placebo composition or 0.1 ml of R-3 gel.

We also compared the placebo composition P-2 (PGA0460717) according to the above protocol with the composition of the present invention prepared by the WE-1 method (PGA0450717) containing 15% pregabalin. Both compositions were tested in groups of 8-8 rats by treating each animal with 0.1 ml of P-2 placebo gel or 0.1 ml of WE-1 gel.

Results:

Figure 10 / A shows a comparison of the effect of a placebo and a reference compositions prepared by simple mixing:

P-1 placebo composition (PGA0440717) and R-3 (PGA0450717) reference composition were measured throughout the whole experiment and in the second phase, which is a graphical representation of the mean values $\pm$ S.E.M. shows no significant difference compared to the Student's test, either full time of the experiment or in the second phase, i.e., the composition comprising 15% of pregabalin did not show a significant effect compared to placebo.

Figure 10/B shows a comparison of a placebo formulation with a formulation of the present invention in which the lipid phase was subjected to HPH agitation during formulation:

Figure 10/B is a graphical representation of the results of the P-2 placebo composition (PGA0460717) and WE-1 (PGA0470717) composition experiments. The Figure 10/B shows the mean values $\pm$ S.E.M. Compared with the Student's test, the behavior of the mice was significantly different in both the full-time and the second, i.e., the formulation containing 15% pregabalin significantly reduced pain in this model than the placebo.

This clearly shows that in the treatment of neuropathic pain, the pregabalin content alone is low, it is necessary according to the present invention to subject the lipid phase of the gel, cream or gel cream to intensive mixing, preferably homogenization with an HPH homogenizer. Such intense mixing causes some structural change in the formulation, which significantly enhances the therapeutic effect of the formulation.

Example 5

Absorption of pregabalin cream from the surface of topically treated ex vivo pig skin

Method:

During the formulations we have examined in a quick test to observe the absorption from skin surface. Frozen, full thickness ex vivo pig skin were used for the test. Thawed skin pieces were placed on paper towels soaked with HBSS solution pH 7.0 and warmed on 32 °C for 30 min. on heating pad then 12 $\mu\text{l}/\text{cm}^2$ of the examined composition was applied and smeared by finger on 2x2 cm skin surface (treated area: 4 cm^2). Photos were taken by normal camera and microscope in different time point before and after treatment to visually examine the absorption

of the pregabalin formulations from the skin surface. Skins were kept on heating pad (32 °C) during the study.

Results:

5.a.: Checking of absorption of PGA 1601018 comprising 5% of pregabalin and PGA 1591018 comprising 10% of pregabalin shows that one hour after the treatment the gels seemed to be absorbed fully in both cases even the gel comprising pregabalin in a dispersed, solid particles of pregabalin. On Figure 11 there are photos of the surface of pig skin before, immediately after one hour after and three hours after the treatment. After one hour even the gel comprising 10% of pregabalin seemed to be absorbed fully.

5.b: Comparison of the composition of the present invention PGA1671118 (WE-2 process) with other marketed creams comprising dispersed particles, namely with Neogranormone® and more advanced form of Mometasone Medimer®.

Formulations tested: 5% Pregabalin - PGA1671118 Neogranormone® - 0700818 (2023/08) (older formulation) Mometasone Medimer® - L02 (05-2019) (newer formulation)

Results: A (PGA1671118) was compared to (Neogranormone) having an old marketing authorization and another suspension product (Mometasone). The formulation of the present invention (PGA1671118) was already "absorbed" after 1 hour, while the other two formulations were still visible on porcine skin after 3 hours. After 3 hours, there was no deposition or crystallization visible under magnification for PGA1671118. Photos from the experiment are shown in Figure 12.

Example 6.

HPH homogenizer and process for homogenization

HPH homogenization steps were carried out with a commercially available HPH homogenizer as follows:

Equipment type: EmulsiFlex-C3 (Figure 8)

Equipment manufacturer: AVESTIN, Inc.

2450 Don Reid Drive, Ottawa, ON, Canada, K1H 1E1,

Specifications

Compressed air: 4-6 bar

Homogenizing machine: internal surface less than 1 dm²

Filling volume: max. 3 l/h

min. 10 ml

Max. Permissible overpressure: 30,000 PSI / 2000 bar

Max. Permissible air pressure 125 PSI / 0.9 MPa

Max. Permissible operating temperature: 70 °C

Steam sterilized: 121 °C

Refrigerant supply: heat exchanger via glycol, cooling thermostat connected to cold water tap with peristaltic pump

Process for the homogenization followed the instructions of manufacturer.

Essentially the sample was put into the sample chamber then the homogenizer was set on.

Then the air pressure was put on. The used pressure of homogenization was 500-1500 bar.

After the homogenization had finished the sample was put back to the sample chamber for further homogenization if it was necessary. The homogenization was repeated from 1 to 125 times.

In the case the mixture is homogenized several times, it may be useful to carry out a pre-homogenization by using lower homogenizing pressure between 500-1000 bar for the first two homogenization steps.

Example 7.

Particle size analysis of pregabalin

4.a. PSD method description for non-micronized Pregabalin

Dry dispersion laser diffraction particle size distribution test conditions (MS 3000)

Instrument: Malvern Mastersizer 3000

Accessory: Aero S

Particle Type: X Non-Spherical

Material: Name: Default

Refractive index: 1.520

Absorption index: 0.1

Density: g/cm³ (default: 1 g/cm³)

Measurement duration: Background: 5 sec Sample: 5 sec

Sequence: Number of measurements: 1

Obscuration: Limit: 1 – 8 %

X Auto-start: Stabilisation time: 0 sec

X Filtering: Time-out: 10 sec

Accessory control: Air pressure: 0.5 barg

Feed rate: 30 %

Configuration: Venturi type: X Standard Venturi disperser

Tray type: X General purpose tray

Hopper gap: 4 mm Mesh

basket used: No

Ball bearing used: No

Data processing: Model: X General purpose

Fine powder: No

Advanced settings: Keep a single result mode: No

Result Range: Limit the result size range: Yes X No

Result Type: X Volume Distribution (recommended)

Sample preparation:

The test sample is homogenized by shaking and rotating the sample bottle by hand for approx. 1 minute.

The parameters marked with * can be changed depending on the adhesion and flow properties of the sample to achieve adequate coverage.

Expression of results: Results d10, d50 and d90 are given as the average of validated measurement results obtained from three independent sample preparations.

7.b. PSD method description for micronized Pregabalin

Instrument: Malvern Mastersizer 3000

Accessory: Aero S

Particle Type: X Non-Spherical

Material: Name: Default

Refractive index: 1.520

Absorption index: 0.1

Density: g/cm³ (default: 1 g/cm³)

Measurement duration: Background: 5 sec Sample: 5 sec

Sequence: Number of measurements: 1

Obscuration: Limit: 1 – 8 %

X Auto-start: Stabilisation time: 0 sec

X Filtering: Time-out: 10 sec

Accessory control: Air pressure: 3.0 barg

Feed rate: 40 %

Configuration: Venturi type: High energy Venturi disperser

Tray type: X General purpose tray

Hopper gap: 4 mm

Mesh basket used: No

Ball bearing used: No

Data processing: Model: General purpose

Fine powder: No

Advanced settings: Keep a single result mode: No

Result Range: Limit the result size range: No

Result Type: Volume Distribution (recommended)

Sample preparation:

The test sample is homogenized by shaking and rotating the sample bottle by hand for approx. 1 minute.

The parameters marked with * can be changed depending on the adhesion and flow properties of the sample to achieve adequate coverage.

Expression of results: Results d10, d50 and d90 are given as the average of validated measurement results obtained from three independent sample preparations.

Example 5.

Particle size analysis with SAX

X-ray scattering of structural elements in the nanoscale range is in the range of small angles (between 0° and approximately 10°). (The Bragg equation establishes a relationship between a large period spacing and a small scattering angle). The SAXS measurements were performed on a SAXS instrument called CREDO of the Research Group for Biological Nanochemistry in the Institute of Materials and Environmental chemistry of the Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Wacha, Varga, and Bóta 2014; Wacha 2015). The samples provided weak scatter due to the low electron density contrast of their components and the matrix, therefore it was necessary to measure for several hours compared to the usual measurement time of the order of minutes until the sufficient signal-to-noise ratio was reached. The measurement of the samples took the exposure times more than 23 hours.

For the measurement, the samples were filled into borosilicate capillaries with a nominal outer diameter of 1.0 mm and a wall thickness of 0.01 mm and a circular cross-section, which were afterwards sealed with a glass stopper and two-component epoxy resin to ensure they are vacuum-proof. The sealed capillaries were then placed in the sample holder block of the equipment, the temperature of which was maintained at 25 °C during the measurement. Measurements were performed at a sample-detector distance of 529.66 mm. In SAXS measurements, the angular dependence of the scattered intensity is expressed using the scattering variable q (also known as the momentum transfer, defined as $q = 4\pi \sin \theta / \lambda$, where 2θ is the scattering angle, $\lambda \approx 0.154$ nm is the X-ray wavelength of the applied Cu K α radiation) For the calibration of the q -scale, thus the sample-to-detector distance, a silver behenate sample was used. The intensity scale was calibrated into absolute, instrument-independent units of differential scattering cross section using a Glassy Carbon specimen pre-calibrated against the scattering intensity of water (Orthaber, Bergmann, and Glatter 2000). Measurements were performed with the “cct” program written for the device. Samples were measured at repeated exposures of 300 s each. After each exposure, the scattering image was processed and corrected by the on-line data evaluation routine implemented in the measurement program (taking into account instrumental and external background signals, sample self-absorption and thickness, and geometrical distortions such as the solid angle difference for each pixel of the detector). Defective exposures were filtered out by statistical analysis, and corrected images were averaged over each sample. The final scattering patterns were azimuthally averaged to yield the scattering curves. The thus obtained SAXS curves were evaluated according to the mathematical method described above and the micelle scattering contribution scaling factor $(I_0) \cdot 100; (\text{cm}^{-1} \text{sr}^{-1})$ was calculated.

Orthaber, D., A. Bergmann, and O. Glatter. 2000. “SAXS Experiments on Absolute Scale with Kratky Systems Using Water as a Secondary Standard.” *Journal of Applied Crystallography* 33 (2): 218–225.

Porod, G. 1951. “Die Röntgenkleinwinkelstreuung von Dichtgepackten Kolloiden Systemen. I. Teil.” *Colloid & Polymer Science* 124 (2): 83–114.

Schmidt, P.W. 1991. “Small-Angle Scattering Studies of Disordered, Porous and Fractal Systems.” *Journal of Applied Crystallography* 24 (5): 414–435.

Wacha, András. 2015. “Optimized Pinhole Geometry for Small-Angle Scattering.” *Journal of Applied Crystallography* 48 (6): 1843–48. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600576715018932>.

Wacha, András, Zoltán Varga, and Attila Bóta. 2014. "CREDO: A New General-Purpose Laboratory Instrument for Small-Angle X-Ray Scattering." *Journal of Applied Crystallography* 47 (5): 1749–54. <https://doi.org/10.1107/S1600576714019918>.

Preparation examples:

Placebo Formula P-1 (PGA 0440717 - Simple Mixed Placebo)

(Topical preparation without pregabalin)

Batch 2000 g

Composition (100 g):

Batch No.	PGA0440717
Process	P-1
Components	[g]
Soya lechitin (Deoiled Soya Lecithin)	1,0000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	2,5000
Oktyldecanol	5,0000
Izopropanol	10,0000
DL-alpha-tokopherol	0,5000
EDTA	0,0050
Carbomer (980)	0,7500
Ammonia solution (25 tömeg% aqueous)	0,5880
Purified water	79,6570
Sum	100,00
HPH treatment of lipid phase	0

A process for preparing a placebo topical formulation

- 1: Preparation of gel phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7.0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.
2. Preparation of the lipid phase: Soya lecithin is swelled in ten-fold amounts of purified water at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol is added and the resulting mixture mixed with the gel phase.
3. Octyl decanol, DL-alpha-tocopherol, decylis oleas and EDTA are added to the thus obtain gel phase. The resulting mixture was homogenized at room temperature and homogenized.

Placebo Formula P-2 (Batch No. PGA 0460717 - HPH Homogenized Placebo)

The composition of PGA 0460717 is the same as PGA 0440717.

The preparation method differs only in that in step 2, in which the mixture of twenty times the amount of soy lecithin swelled in purified water mixed with isopropanol and the mixture was

homogenized 5 times with an HPH homogenizer, and then the mixture thus homogenized was added to the gel phase.

Reference example R-1 (PGA2180719)

(Topical formula containing 2.5% of pregabalin **in dissolved form.**).

Batch size 2000g

Composition of the formula (100g):

Batch No	PGA2180719
Process	R-1
Compound	[g]
Pregabalin (micronized)	2.5000
LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75)	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500
Coconut oil refined	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500
Benzyl alcohol	1.0000
EDTA	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.4000
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.3136
Purified water	78.7839
Sum	100.00
Number of HPH of lipid phase	0

Process for the preparation of topical composition comprising pregabalin

- 1: Preparation of gel phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7.0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.
2. Preparation of lipid phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.
3. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then homogenized.
5. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase coconut oil, Decylis oleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.
6. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the cream of point 4 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized with a colloid mill for 120 min, then the evaporated

water is replaced with purified water while stirring. During the homogenization pregabalin dissolves.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in polyfoil or aluminum tubes.)

Results of mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Data for Figure 1: Plantar withdrawal threshold data in MPNL model: effect of 50 µl PGA 2180719 treatment (2.5% pregabalin cream, 50µl / right foot, mean values ± S.E.M. n = 6), PWT values for both feet

PGA2180719	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.789	0.080	0.090	0.017	6	*
+30 min	0.700	0.037	0.813	0.125	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.833	0.061	0.797	0.132	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.763	0.083	0.643	0.120	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.667	0.042	0.128	0.056	6	*

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Reference example R-2 (PGA2190719)

(Topical formula containing 5% of pregabalin **in dispersed form.**).

Batch size 2000g

Composition of the formula (100g):

Batch No:	PGA2190719
Process	R-2
Component	g
Pregabalin (ground)	5.0000
LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75)	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500
Coconut oil refined	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500
Benzylalcohol	1.0000
EDTA	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.4000
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.3136
Purified water	76.2839

Sum	100.00
Number of HPH of lipid phase	0

Process for the preparation of topical composition comprising pregabalin

1. Preparation of gel phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the PH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.
2. Preparation of lipid phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.
3. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then homogenized.
4. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase coconut oil, Decylis oleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.
5. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the cream of point 4 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized with a colloid mill for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water while stirring.
6. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum or polyfoil tubes.)

Results of the mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Data for Figure 1: Plantar withdrawal threshold data in MPNL model: effect of 20 µl PGA 2190719 treatment (5% pregabalin cream, 20µl / right foot, mean values ± S.E.M. n = 7), PWT values for both feet

PGA2190719	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	N	p
base	0.743	0.037	0.042	0.009	7	*
+30 min	0.771	0.052	0.576	0.138	7	n.s.
+1 h	0.743	0.075	0.517	0.134	7	*
+3 h	0.700	0.049	0.516	0.097	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.671	0.047	0.164	0.070	7	*

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Reference example R-3 (PGA0450717)

(Topical formula containing 15% of pregabalin **in dispersed form**)

Batch size 2000g

Composition of the formula (100g):

Batch No.	PGA0450717
Process	R-3
Component	g
Pregabalin (ground)	15.0000
SOYA LECITHIN (Deoiled Soya Lecithin)	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500
Octyldodecanol	2.5000
Isopropyl alcohol	5.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.3750
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.2940
Purified water	74.8285
SUM:	100.00
number of HPH of lipid phase	0

Process for the preparation of topical composition comprising pregabalin

1. Preparation of gel phase: In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.
2. Preparation of lipid phase: In tenfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol, DL-alpha-Tocopherol and octyldodecanol are added to the mixture and homogenized.
3. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then homogenized.
4. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase, Decylis oleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA are added in this order.
5. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the cream of point 5 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized with a colloid mill for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water while stirring.
6. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum or polyfoil tubes.)

Homogenization was performed in a Stephan mixer. Device information: Stephan UMC 5 electronic (Manufacturing number: 722.780.01) Equipment manufacturer: A. Stephan und Söhne GmbH & Co., Year of manufacture: 1998.

Homogenization was performed at a stirring speed of 300 rpm and a scraper stirring speed of 20 rpm we are done.

Results of the mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Data for Figure 1: Plantar withdrawal threshold data in MPNL model: effect of 50 µl PGA 0450717 treatment (15% pregabalin cream, 50µl / right foot, mean values $\pm$ S.E.M. n = 5), PWT values for both feet

<u>PGA0450717</u>	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	N	P
base	0.640	0.091	0.0620	0.0150	5	*
+30 min	0.680	0.080	0.3840	0.1970	5	n.s.
+1 h	0.916	0.084	0.7430	0.1630	5	n.s.
+3 h	0.860	0.087	0.7800	0.1020	5	n.s.
+5 h	0.680	0.097	0.3900	0.1560	5	*

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Working examples

WE-1 general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

In ten or twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7.0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

2. Preparation of lipid phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water soya lecithin (Deoiled Soya Lecithin) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol, Octyldodecanol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of the lipid phase:

The thus obtained solution is homogenized n times by High pressure homogenizer. The used pressure is preferably between 500-1500 bar. During the HPH homogenization the solution

warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while stirring.

4. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase at 30-35 °C while stirring, then homogenized.

5. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase Decylis oleas and an aqueous solution of EDTA are added in this order.

6. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and then mixed into the cream of point 5 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum or polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-1 process:

Batch No.	PGA0980 418*	PGA1000 418*	PGA10404 18*	PGA0470717 (PGA0591017) (PGA0651117) (PGA0661117) 9x (PGA1010418) (PGA1060418##)	PGA0641117 (PGA0990418*)
Process	WE-1	WE-1	WE-1	WE-1	WE-1
Pregabalin	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000	15.0000
Phospholipid	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Octyldodecan ol	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000
Isopropyl alcohol	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
DL-alpha- Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940
Purified water	74.8285	74.8285	74.8285	74.8285	74.8285
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

n number of HPH of lipid phase	1	4	9	5 or 9	3
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Results of mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Data for Figure 1: Plantar withdrawal threshold data in MPNL model:

Effect of 50 μ l PGA 0470717 treatment (15% pregabalin cream, 50 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M. n = 6), PWT values for both feet

PGA0470717	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	N	p
base	0.645	0.083	0.045	0.012	6	*
+30 min	0.650	0.050	0.381	0.140	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.800	0.089	0.967	0.033	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.817	0.083	0.800	0.126	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.813	0.125	0.769	0.154	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Data for Figure 1:

PGA0591017	Intact paw	Intact paw	Number of mice	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	N	Mean	SEM	N	p
base	0.523	0.143	5	0.0570	0.0140	5	*
+30 min	0.636	0.078	5	0.7600	0.1120	5	n.s.
+1 h	0.740	0.108	5	0.9000	0.1000	5	n.s.
+3 h	0.880	0.080	5	0.8200	0.0800	5	n.s.
+5 h	0.620	0.080	5	0.8160	0.1130	5	n.s.

Data for Figure 2: Plantar withdrawal threshold data in MPNL model:

Effect of the treatment of 20 μ l PGA 0980418 (15% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA0980418	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	N	p
base	0.604	0.081	0.033	0.004	6	*
+30 min	0.667	0.080	0.525	0.122	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.733	0.120	0.723	0.117	6	n.s.

+3 h	0.683	0.101	0.833	0.080	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.683	0.054	0.486	0.077	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: $p < 0.05$

Figure 2: Effect of 20 μ l PGA 0990418 treatment (15% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA0990418	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.665	0.083	0.0420	0.0140	7	*
+30 min	0.671	0.064	0.5450	0.0740	7	n.s.
+1 h	0.754	0.099	0.8570	0.0720	7	n.s.
+3 h	0.714	0.059	0.7710	0.0680	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.586	0.046	0.5940	0.0740	7	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: $p < 0.05$

Figure 2: Effect of 20 μ l PGA 1000418 treatment (15% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA1000418	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.634	0.076	0.065	0.007	7	*
+30 min	0.696	0.129	0.725	0.138	7	n.s.
+1 h	0.714	0.094	0.857	0.072	7	n.s.
+3 h	0.857	0.037	0.886	0.086	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.671	0.068	0.729	0.064	7	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: $p < 0.05$

Figure 2: Effect of 20 μ l PGA 1040418 treatment (15% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA1040418	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.742	0.090	0.075	0.015	6	*
+30 min	0.850	0.096	0.883	0.161	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.700	0.073	0.767	0.073	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.667	0.067	0.717	0.109	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.747	0.133	0.772	0.086	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: $p < 0.05$

WE-2 general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

2. Preparation of lipoid phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 (lecithin) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of the lipid phase:

The thus given solution is homogenized n=5 times by High pressure homogenizer. The used pressure was between 500-1500 bar. During HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while stirring.

4. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then homogenized.

5. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase coconut oil, Decylis oleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.

6. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the cream of point 5 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum or polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-2 process:

Batch No	PGA1591018	PGA1601018	PGA 1671118
Compound	g	g	g
Process type	WE-2	WE-2	WE-2
Pregabalin (micronized)	10.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Phospholipid (LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75))	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Octyldodecanol	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coconut oil	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000

DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Benzyl alcohol	2.0000	2.0000	1.000
Carbomers (Carbopol 980)	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940
Purified water	64.8285	69.8285	71.7285
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00
n (Number of HPH of lipid phase)	5	5	5

Results of a mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Figure 3. Effect of 20 μ l PGA 1591018 treatment (10% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA1591018	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.742	0.900	0.034	0.006	6	*
+30 min	0.717	0.075	0.649	0.160	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.683	0.083	0.933	0.042	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.700	0.082	0.933	0.042	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.633	0.092	0.817	0.091	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Figure 3. Effect of 20 μ l PGA 1601018 treatment (5% pregabalin cream, 20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet

PGA1601018	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.698	0.078	0.043	0.006	6	*
+30 min	0.700	0.063	0.633	0.160	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.643	0.120	0.630	0.042	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.483	0.097	0.693	0.042	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.667	0.088	0.516	0.091	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

WE-3 general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

2. Preparation of lipoid phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of the lipid phase:

The thus obtained solution is homogenized n=5 times by a High pressure homogenizer. During HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while stirring.

4. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then homogenized.

5. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase Decylis oleas and an aqueous solution of EDTA are added in this order.

6. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the cream of point 5 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminium or polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-3 process:

Batch No.	PGA137071 8	PGA145071 8	PGA146071 8	PGA151091 8	PGA152091 8
Compound	g	g	g	g	
Process type:	WE-3	WE-3	WE-3	WE-3	WE-3
Pregabalin (micronized)	15.0000	10.0000	5.0000	10.0000	37.5000
Phospholipid (LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75))	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Octyldodecanol	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coconut oil	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

Isopropyl alcohol	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000	2.5000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.1250	0.1250	0.1250	0.1250	0.1250
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Benzyl alcohol	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Carbomers (Carbopol 980)	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940	0.2940
All ingredients	19.7965	14.7965	9.7965	14.7965	42.2965
Purified water	80.2035	85.2035	90.2035	85.2035	57.7035
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
n (Number of HPH of lipid phase)	5	5	5	125	5

Results of a mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Figure 3. Comparative plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice:

Comparison of the effects of PGA1460718 (5%), PGA1450718 (10%), PGA1370718 (15%) (20 μ l / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), PWT values for both feet Figure 3 shows data for the treated foot only.

PGA1370718	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.714	0.048	0.054	0.015	7	*
+30 min	0.729	0.064	0.806	0.140	7	n.s.
+1 h	0.757	0.061	0.814	0.077	7	n.s.
+3 h	0.743	0.102	0.829	0.092	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.657	0.057	0.609	0.105	7	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p < 0.05

PGA1450718	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.705	0.054	0.037	0.007	7	*
+30 min	0.700	0.065	0.646	0.118	7	n.s.

+1 h	0.614	0.070	0.857	0.072	7	*
+3 h	0.714	0.103	0.886	0.059	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.634	0.116	0.654	0.106	7	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

PGA1460718	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.692	0.060	0.063	0.023	8	*
+30 min	0.713	0.058	0.204	0.079	8	*
+1 h	0.613	0.061	0.644	0.136	8	n.s.
+3 h	0.675	0.073	0.577	0.121	8	n.s.
+5 h	0.638	0.038	0.507	0.137	8	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Figure 2: Effect of 20µl PGA 1510918 cream (10% pregabalin, 20µl / right foot, mean values $\pm$ S.E.M.), both feet

PGA1510918	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.762	0.062	0.063	0.020	7	*
+30 min	0.800	0.062	0.526	0.135	7	*
+1 h	0.814	0.077	0.676	0.080	7	n.s.
+3 h	0.711	0.087	0.711	0.078	7	n.s.
+5 h	0.729	0.078	0.566	0.120	7	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Figure 3: Effect of 20 µl PGA 1520918 cream (37.5% pregabalin, 20 µl / right foot, mean $\pm$ S.E.M.), both feet

PGA1520918	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Mean	SEM	Mean	SEM	n	p
base	0.744	0.050	0.047	0.019	6	*
+30 min	0.867	0.067	0.750	0.072	6	n.s.
+1 h	0.833	0.061	0.967	0.033	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.800	0.052	0.900	0.045	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.733	0.067	0.617	0.091	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

WE-4 general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

a.) Using Carbopol 980 (batches marked PGA):

In ten or twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

b.) Using xanthan gum (batch AL2890321):

The xanthan gum was gelled in 10 times the amount of purified water at 60 ° C and homogenized by cooling to 25 ° C.

c.) Using hydroxyethyl cellulose (batch AL2900321):

HEC (Hydroxyethylcellulose) was gelled in 10-fold purified water at 37 ° C (35-40 ° C) and homogenized by cooling to 25 ° C.

d.) Using Polaxamer (batch AL2910321):

Poloxamer 407 was gelled in 10-fold purified then stored in a refrigerator for 24 hours, then allowed to warm to room temperature.

2. Preparation of lipid phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 (lecithin) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of the lipid phase:

The thus obtained solution is homogenized n=5 times by a High pressure homogenizer. The used pressure is preferably between 500-1500 bar. During HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while stirring.

4. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase further additives preferably coconut oil, Decylisoleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.

5. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the mixture of point 4 at 30 °C and homogenized for 30 minutes. Then the obtained mixture is homogenized for m=3 times with a high pressure homogenizer. The used pressure is preferably between 500-1500 bar. During the HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 30-50 °C. Then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water if it is necessary.

6. The lipid suspension phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then the mixture of lipid suspension phase and gel are homogenized for 60 minutes at 25 °C.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-4 process:

Batch No	PGA2150619#	PGA221 1119*	PGA230 0320*	PGA231 0320*	PGA232 0320*
Process Type	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4
Compound	g	g	g	g	g
Pregabalin	5.0000	5.0000	3.0000	5.0000	7.5000
Phospholipid	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Coconut oil	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Benzyl alcohol	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Gelling agent	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136
Purified water	76.2839	76.2839	78.2839	76.2839	73.7839
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number of HPH of lipid phase (n)	5	5	5	5	5
Number of HPH of lipid suspension phase (m)	3	3	3	3	3

Gelling agent: *: Carbomer (980), **: Xanthan gum, #: Hydroxyethyl cellulose (Natrosol 250 HHX Pharm Bag), ##: poloxamer 407

* micronized or ground PGA 2150619 pregabalin used. Phospholipid: LECITHIN, # LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75, LIPOID S 75),

Batch No	PGA2330320*	AL2890321*	AL2900321*	AL2910321*
Process Type	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4
Compound	g	g	g	g
Pregabalin	10.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Phospholipid	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500

Coconut oil	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
EDTA	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Benzyl alcohol	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Gelling agent	0.4000	1.5000**	1.5000#	15.0000##
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.3136	-	-	
Purified water	71.2839	75.4975	75.4975	61.9975
Sum	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Number of HPH of lipid phase (n)	5	5	5	5
Number of HPH of lipid suspension phase (m)	3	3	3	3

Gelling agent: *: Carbomer (980), **: Xanthan gum, #: Hydroxyethyl cellulose (Natrosol 250

HHX Pharm Bag), ##: poloxamer 407

* micronized or ground PGA 2150619 pregabalin used. Phospholipid: LECITHIN, #

LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75, LIPOID S 75),

Results of a mouse model of neuropathic pain:

Figure 5: Plantar withdrawal threshold diagrams 7 days after MPNL surgery in NMRI mice, effect of 20 µl PGA 2211119 cream (5% pregabalin, 20 µl / right foot, mean values ± S.E.M. n = 8), both feet.

PGA2211119	Intact paw	Intact paw	MPNL paw	MPNL paw	Number of mice	difference between the two paws
T	Átlag	SEM	Átlag	SEM	n	p
kezdeti	0.672	0.075	0.054	0.011	8	*
+30 min	0.688	0.044	0.783	0.108	8	n.s.
+1 h	0.900	0.038	0.863	0.056	8	n.s.
+3 h	0.688	0.044	0.700	0.057	8	n.s.
+5 h	0.697	0.088	0.623	0.078	8	n.s.
+6 h	0.785	0.073	0.597	0.113	8	n.s.
+7 h	0.623	0.069	0.348	0.109	8	*
+8 h	0,560	0,029	0,454	0,078	8	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

Figure 4: Effect of 20 µl PGA 2150619 cream (5% pregabalin, 20 µl / right foot, mean values ± S.E.M. n = 6), both feet

PGA2150619	Kezeletlen láb	Kezeletlen láb	MPNL láb	MPNL láb	egerek száma	eltérés a két láb között
T	Átlag	SEM	Átlag	SEM	n	p
kezdeti	0.789	0.082	0.104	0.022	6	*
+30 min	0.733	0.071	0.933	0.042	6	*
+1 h	0.767	0.061	0.933	0.042	6	n.s.
+3 h	0.817	0.065	0.800	0.073	6	n.s.
+5 h	0.700	0.073	0.647	0.098	6	n.s.

n.s. : not significant; *: p <0.05

WE-4/B general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

In ten or twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

2. Preparation of lipid phase:

In twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 (lecithin) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-the lipid phase:

The thus obtained solution is homogenized n=5 times with a high shear mixer homogenizer. During the homogenization the solution warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of stirring.

4. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase further additives preferably coconut oil, Decylis oleas, an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.

5. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and mixed into the mixture of point 4 at 30 °C and homogenized for 30 minutes. Then the obtained mixture is homogenized for m=3 times with a high shear equipment. During the homogenization the solution warms up to 30-50 °C. Then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water if it is necessary.

6. The lipid suspension phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then the mixture of lipid suspension phase and gel are homogenized for 60 minutes at 25 °C.

7. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-4/B process:

Batch No	PGA2310 320	AL2980 621	AL2990 621	AL301052 1	AL297052 1	AL3020 521
Process Type	WE-4	WE-4/B1	WE-4/B2	WE-4/B3	WE-4/B4	WE-4/B5
Compound	g	g	g	g	g	g
Pregabalin	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4	WE-4
Phospholipid	g	g	g	g	g	g
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
Coconut oil	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000	0.5000
Isopropyl alcohol	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000	5.0000
EDTA	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000	10.0000
Benzyl alcohol	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500	0.2500
Gelling agent	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025	0.0025
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Purified water	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*	0.4000*
Sum	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136	0.3136
Type of high shear mixing equipment	HPH homogeni zer	IKA® magic LAB® (Colloid Mill MK)	IKA® magic LAB® (CMS modul) high shear mixer	SONIC SVCX- 500 (ultrahan g)	DYNO®- MILL ML	Microflu idizer
Number of HPH of lipid phase (n)	5	5	5	5	5	5
Number of HPH of lipid suspension phase (m)	3	3	3	3	3	3

Use of high shear mixing equipments in each process:

WE-4/B1: AL2980621

IKA® magic LAB® was used using the Colloid Mill MK module, following the operating instructions in the manual with the following settings: Applied speed: 3000 rpm

set angle [°]	Adjusting ring rotation []	Radial gap distance [mm]
180	1/2	0,159

WE-4 / B2: AL 2990521

IKA® magic LAB® equipment was used using a CMS (high shear mixer) module, following the operating instructions in the manual with the following settings:

Applied speed: 3000 rpm.

WE-4 / B3: AL3010521

The Sonic Vibra Cell VCX 500 Ultrasonic Cutting Machine was used following the operating instructions in the manual with the following settings:

Destructive head: Type 219-B

Pulse time: 2/2 sec.

Amplitude: 50-60%

Duration 3 hours.

The temperature of the composition was maintained between 27-30 ° C during the process.

WE-4/B4: AL2970521 A DYNO®-MILL ML (Multi Lab), Manufacturer (Willíy A. Bachofen AG Maschinenfabrik) laboratory mixing bead mill was used following the operating instructions in the manual with the following settings:

Applied speed: 2600-2660 rpm

Applied pressure: 0.1 bar pressure

WE-4 / B5: AL3020521

A microfluidizer was used as described in the manufacturer's manual: Applied pressure: 2000 bar

Efficacy results:

Samples were compared in pairs with the efficacy of the reference PGA 2310320 cream in a mouse neuropathy model (minimum 7 days after medial plantar nerve ligation (MPNL) surgery). During the test, the right hind operated leg of the animals (~2 cm² area) was treated

with 10 μ l of cream (0.5 mg pregabalin). The reason for choosing the treatment volume is that this volume is half the amount of the effective reference (PGA2310320) up to 8 hours in this test with this treatment regimen, and any differences in efficacy were expected to be more pronounced at lower treatment volumes during the 5 hours of the experiment. The effect of pregabalin cream is shown by the increase in the stimulus threshold of the neuropathic (hypersensitive, hypersensitive) sole, which was determined several times during the experiment using von Frey filaments; before, 0.5, 1, 3 and 5 hours before and after treatment.

Results:

a.)

PGA 2310320 vs AL 2980521 vs AL 2990521 (HPH vs IKA colloid mill vs IKA high shear mixer)

All three preparations had a rapid effect and produced a strong effect for 3 hours after treatment: the stimulus threshold of the operated leg was significantly raised and the sensitivity of the operated leg did not differ from that of the intact leg at these time points. The sensitivity threshold of the treated side at the fifth hour was significantly lower than that of the intact side for all three creams.

Figure 13/a shows the change in sensitivity of the MPNL operated leg for the three samples /PGA 2310320 (WE-4, HPH) vs AL 2980521 (WE-4 / B, IKA colloid mill) vs AL 2990521 (WE-4 / B IKA high shear mixer) Plantar withdrawal threshold MPNL mice mean values + S.E.M. (group 6-7 mice) dosage 10 μ l/paw, 5% pregabalin compositions, Two-way ANOVA, Dunnett vs 0: * p < 0.06 main column effect: 231/299: p < 0.06 /. It can be clearly seen that the reduction in efficacy at the fifth hour was the smallest for the HPH homogenization product, while the curves for the other two formulations run parallel to HPH with a lower effect, but they are also significantly more effective after five hours than at baseline. Using higher doses or multiple high shear mixing cycles would make these samples even more effective.

b.)

The result of AL 3010521 (WE-4 / B, SONIC SVCX-500 Ultrasound Device) shows that even after 5 hours of treatment, there is no significant difference between the sensation of the treated and the intact foot. HPH is not much less effective than the homogenized product (PGA 2310320) even at this low treatment dose.

c.) PGA 2310320 vs AL 2970521 (WE-4 / B, DYNO mill) vs AL 3020521 (WE-4 / B Microfluidizer)

All three formulations acted rapidly and produced a strong effect for up to 3 hours after treatment: the stimulus threshold of the operated leg was significantly increased and the sensitivity of the operated leg did not differ from that of the intact leg at these time points. The sensitivity threshold of the treated side at the fifth hour was significantly lower than that of the intact side for all three creams. Figure 13/ C shows the results of the comparison of AL 2970521 (WE-4 / B, DYNO mill) vs AL 3020521 (WE-4 / B Microfluidizer) in the Plantar withdrawal threshold MPNL mice test. It is clear that the reduction in efficacy at the fifth hour was smallest for the HPH homogenization product, while in the other two formulations the curves run parallel to HPH with a lower effect, but they are also significantly more effective after five hours than baseline. Using higher doses or multiple high shear mixing cycles would make these samples even more effective. Thus, these results, i.e. that products made with other high shear mixing processes even five hours after application, also demonstrate that they also achieve the intended therapeutic goal of producing a topical product that lasts for at least 5 hours. Thus, although the high pressure homogenizer appears to be the most efficient process, other high shear mixing methods suitable for disintegrating phospholipid micelles are also suitable for preparing the long sustained release compositions of the present invention.

WE-5 general procedure:

1. Preparation of gel phase:

In ten or twentyfold amount of purified water Carbopol 980 is swelled, then the pH is adjusted to pH 7,0 by adding aqueous ammonia solution.

2. Preparation of lipid phase:

In ten or twentyfold amount of purified water LIPOID P 75 (lecithin) is swelled at 25-40 °C, then isopropyl alcohol and DL-alpha-Tocopherol are added to the mixture and homogenized.

3. HPH homogenization of the lipid phase:

The thus obtained solution is homogenized n=5 times by a High pressure homogenizer. The used pressure is preferably between 500-1500 bar. During HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 25-50 °C. The thus obtained lipid phase is cooled to between 20-30 °C and if it is necessary the evaporated water is replaced by adding purified water while stirring.

4. The lipid phase is added to the gel phase while stirring, then the mixture of lipid phase and gel are homogenized for 30 minutes at 25 °C.
5. To the homogenized mixture of lipid phase and gel phase further additives preferably coconut oil, Kollicream DO (Decylis oleas), an aqueous solution of EDTA and benzyl alcohol are added in this order.
6. Pregabalin is suspended in the rest of the water and homogenized for m=5 times with a high pressure homogenizer. The used pressure is preferably between 500-1500 bar. During the HPH homogenization the solution warms up to 30-50 °C. Then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water if it is necessary.
7. The dispersion of pregabalin homogenized by HPH is mixed into the cream of point 5 at 30 °C, then the obtained cream is homogenized for 120 min, then the evaporated water is replaced with purified water.
8. The thus obtained cream is cooled to 25 °C and filled into containers. (Preferably in aluminum or polyfoil tubes.)

Compositions prepared according to WE-5 process:

BatchNo.	PGA2050519
Process type	WE-5
Compound	g
Pregabalin (ground)	5.0000
LECITHIN (LIPOID P 75)	0.5000
Decylis oleas /Kollicream DO/	1.2500
Coconut oil refined	5.0000
Isopropyl alcohol	10.0000
DL-alpha-Tocopherol	0.2500
Benzylalcohol	1.0000
EDTA	0.0025
Carbomers (980)	0.4000
Ammonium solution (25 weight % aqueous sol.)	0.3136
All ingredients	23.7161
Purified water	76.2839
	100.00
Number of HPH of lipid phase (n)	5
Number of pregabalin dispersion (m)	5

Claims:

1. Topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin and phospholipid obtainable by a process in which a mixture comprising the phospholipid and solvent is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment and wherein the pregabalin and the phospholipid are in dispersed form in the composition.
2. A topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin and a phospholipid according to claim 1, obtainable by a process in which, as a high shear mixing equipment, preferably an HPH homogenizer, a microfluidizer, an ultrasonic homogenizer, a bead mill, a slit homogenizer, a colloid mill, a high shear mixer, most preferably an HPH homogenizer is used.
3. Topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin and phospholipid obtainable by a process according to Claim 1 or 2 in which the composition comprises a rheology modifier.
4. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable the process according to any of Claims 1-3 in which the mixture of phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, thena.)
 - a.1.) a rheology modifier is added, and
 - a.2) to the thus given mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized, or
 - b.)
 - b.1.) to the thus given mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized, then
 - b.2) a rheology modifier is added, or
 - c.)
 - c.1.) to the thus obtained mixture a mixture of pregabalin and optionally other excipients is added which were previously homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer separately, then
 - c.2.) a rheology modifier is added, or
 - d.)

d.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then

d.2.) a rheology modifier is added, or

e.)

e.1.) a rheology modifier is added to the mixture, then

e.2.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, and

if necessary a further rheology modifier or excipients are added.

5. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable the process according to any of Claims 1 or 2 in which the mixture of phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, pregabalin and optionally other excipients are homogenized and

- homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

- a rheology modifier is added, and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized.

6. A topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 4, in which the phospholipid, solvent or mixture of solvents and optionally pregabalin and other excipients is homogenized at least once, preferably 1 to 125 times, more preferably 3 to 10 times, most preferably 5 to 10 times a high pressure homogenizer.

7. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-6 in which more than 2.5 weight % of pregabalin and 0.1-5 weight % of high pressure homogenized phospholipid are used and the pregabalin is in dispersed form in the composition.

8. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-7 in which 2.5-40 weight %, preferably 3-20 weight %, more preferably 3-15 weight %, most preferably 5-10 weight % of pregabalin and 0.1-3 weight%, preferably 0.1-1.5 weight %, most

preferably 0.1-1.2 weight % of phospholipid are used and the pregabalin is in dispersed form in the composition.

9. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-8 in which as further excipients 40-90 weight%, preferably, 70-90weight%, most preferably 75-85 weight% of solvent, 0-20 weight%, preferably 2-15 weight%, more preferably 3-10 weight% of emollient, 0-20 weight%, preferably 2-15 weight%, more preferably 3-10 weight% of penetration enhancer, 0-5 weight%, preferably 0.1-2 weight%, most preferably 0.2-0.5 weight% of the rheology modifier or a mixture thereof can be used.

10. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-9 in which for the preparation of the composition

as phospholipid, natural or synthetic phospholipid, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75,

as solvents water, pharmaceutically acceptable C₂-C₄ alcohols, more preferably ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, iso-butanol, alcohols having more than one hydroxyl group, preferably glycerol, propylene glycol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol or a mixture thereof,

as emollient vitamins A, D, and E, lanolin, lanolin alcohol, propylene glycol di-benzoate, vegetable oils, plant extracts, fatty alcohol esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, synthetic polymers, silicon compounds, fatty acids, mineral oil derivatives, waxes or a mixture thereof, most preferably as fatty acid ester cetyl palmitate, fatty alcohols as octyldodecanol, as fatty acid derivative Decylis oleas, as vegetable oil coconut oil,

as penetration enhancer besides the phospholipid, C₂-C₄ alcohols, DL-alpha-tocopherol, mixture thereof,

as preservative EDTA, EDTA derivatives, aromatic preservatives such as para-hydroxy benzoates, thimerosal, chlorohexidine benzyl alcohol and benzalkonium chloride, preferably benzyl alcohol, more preferably a mixture of benzyl alcohol and EDTA,

as rheology modifier polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid) preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomers,

as pH modifier preferably base type pH modifier, more preferably ammonia, ammonium solution, alkali or alkali earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, hydro-carbonates, or organic bases, such as primer, seconder or tert. amines, most preferably aqueous ammonia solution can be used.

11. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-10 in which the mixture of phospholipid preferably a solvent, preferably with water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably with ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water an isopropanol and optionally with other excipients preferably with emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then

a.)

a.1.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, then

a.2) pregabalin and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

b.)

b.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, then

b.2) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most

preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, or

c.)

c.1.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a mixture of pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives, preferably an aqueous EDTA solution which mixture was homogenized previously with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer separately preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times and

c.2.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, or

d.)

d.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are added to the lipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then

d.2.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, or a rheology modifier is added, ore.)

e.1.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a

solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, then

e.2.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are added to the phospholipid phase, then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then

if necessary a further rheology modifier or excipients are added.

12. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by the process according to any of Claims 1-11 in which the mixture of phospholipid, pregabalin and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably a mixture of water with ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally with excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol are

- homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then the thus given mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

- the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers, preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably

5-10 times, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized.

13. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to any of Claims 1-12 in which the mixture of phospholipid is prepared by swelling the phospholipid, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75, with 10-30 times preferably 10-20 times weight amount water by the weight of phospholipid and the thus obtained swelled phospholipid is mixed with other excipients to form the lipid phase.

14. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to any of Claims 1-13 in which the gel phase is prepared by swelling the rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xantan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water in an amount of 10-30 fold, preferably 1-20 fold weight amount solvent, preferably water by the weight of rheology modifier and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier.

15. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to any of Claims 1-11 in which the used pregabalin preferably has a D_{90} of particle size of ground pregabalin between 20-200 micrometer, more preferably the used pregabalin is micronized having a D_{90} of particle size below 20 micrometer.

16. Topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable according to any of Claims 1-15 in which the temperature of the mixture during the homogenization is kept with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH is between 0-50 °C, preferably 20-45 °C, most preferably 25-35 °C.

17. A topical pharmaceutical composition obtainable by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 16, in which HPH homogenization is carried out so that the pressure used is between 500 and 2000 bar, preferably between 500 and 1500 bar, most preferably between 1000 and 1500 bar.

18. Process for the preparation of topical pharmaceutical composition comprising pregabalin and phospholipid according to any of Claims 1-17 characterized in that

- a phospholipid and a solvent or a mixture of solvents are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment and pregabalin is admixed to the composition, or

- the phospholipid, solvent and pregabalin are mixed and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, wherein

the thus obtained composition comprises pregabalin in dispersed form.

19. The process according to Claim 18 characterized in that, in the process as a high shear mixing equipment, preferably an HPH homogenizer, a microfluidizer, an ultrasonic homogenizer, a bead mill, a slit homogenizer, a colloid mill, a high shear mixer, most preferably an HPH homogenizer is used.

20. Process according to Claims 18 or 19 characterized in that the obtained composition is formed to a gel, cream or gel-cream by adding a rheology modifier to the composition.

21. Process according to Claim 18 or 20 characterized in that the mixture of phospholipid and a solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then

a.)

a.1.) a rheology modifier is added, and

a.2) to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, or

b.)

b.1.) to the thus obtained mixture pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added and the thus obtained mixture is homogenized, then

b.2) a rheology modifier is added, or

c.)

c.1.) to the thus obtained mixture a mixture of pregabalin and optionally other excipients which were previously homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer separately are added, then

c.2.) a rheology modifier is added, or

d.)

d.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then

d.2.) a rheology modifier is added, or

e.)

e.1.) a rheology modifier is added to the mixture,

e.2.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then

if necessary, a further rheology modifier or excipients are added.22. Process according to any of Claims 18-21 characterized in that the mixture of phospholipid, pregabalin and a solvent or a mixture of solvents and optionally other excipients are homogenized and

- the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then a rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

- to the thus obtained mixture a rheology modifier is added, and thus obtained composition is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized.

23. Process according to any of Claims 18-22 characterized in that the mixture comprising phospholipid, solvent, or a mixture of solvents and optionally pregabalin and other excipients are homogenized with high pressure homogenizer at least 1 time preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times.

24. Process according to any of Claims 18-23 characterized in that more than 2.5 weight% of pregabalin and 0.1-5 weight % of high pressure homogenized phospholipid are used.

25. Process according to any of Claims 18-24 characterized in that 2.5-40 weight %, preferably 3-20 weight %, more preferably 3-15 weight %, most preferably 5-10 weight % of pregabalin and 0,1-3 weight%, preferably 0.1-1.5 weight %, most preferably 0.1-1.2 weight % of phospholipid are used.

26. Process according to any of Claims 18-25 characterized in that as further excipients 40-90 weight%, preferably 70-90 weight%, most preferably 75-85 weight% of solvent, 0-20 weight%, preferably 2-15 weight%, more preferably 3-10 weight% of emollient, 0-20 weight%, preferably 2-15 weight%, more preferably 3-10 weight% of penetration enhancer, 0-5 weight%, preferably 0.1-2 weight%, most preferably 0.2-0.5 weight% of rheology modifier or a mixture thereof can be used.

27. Process according to any of Claims 18-26 characterized in that for the preparation of the composition

as phospholipid, natural or synthetic phospholipid, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin, deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75,

as solvents water, pharmaceutically acceptable C₂-C₄ alcohols, more preferably ethanol, propanol, isopropanol, n-butanol, iso-butanol, alcohols having more than one hydroxyl group, preferably glycerol, propylene glycol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol or a mixture thereof,

as emollient vitamins A, D, and E, lanolin, lanolin alcohol, propylene glycol di-benzoate, vegetable oils, plant extracts, fatty alcohol esters, fatty acid esters, fatty alcohols, synthetic polymers, silicon compounds, fatty acids, mineral oil derivatives, waxes or a mixture thereof, most preferably as fatty acid ester cetyl palmitate, fatty alcohols as octyldodecanol, as fatty acid derivative Decylis oleas, as vegetable oil coconut oil,

as penetration enhancer besides the phospholipid, C₂-C₄ alcohols, DL-alpha-tocopherol, mixture thereof,

as preservative EDTA, EDTA derivatives, aromatic preservatives such as para-hydroxy benzoates, thimerosal, chlorohexidine benzyl alcohol and benzalkonium chloride, preferably benzyl alcohol, more preferably a mixture of benzyl alcohol and EDTA,

as rheology modifier polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers such as carbomers (polyacrylic acid) preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum,

as pH modifier preferably base type pH modifier, more preferably ammonia, ammonium solution, alkali or alkali earth metal hydroxides, carbonates, hydro-carbonates, or organic bases, such as primer, seconder or tert. amines, most preferably aqueous ammonia solution can be used.

28. Process according to any of Claims 18-27 characterized in that the mixture of phospholipid preferably a solvent, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol with homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer, preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then

a.)

a.1.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonium solution, then

a.2) pregabalin and optionally other excipients, preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

b.)

b.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are admixed to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, then

b.2) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonia solution, or

c.)

c.1.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a mixture comprising pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are which mixture was previously homogenized with a high shear

mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer separately preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, and then

c.2.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonia solution, or

d.)

d.1.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are added to the phospholipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, then

d.2.) the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonia solution, or a rheology modifier is added, or

e.)

e.1.) the thus given mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably with aqueous ammonia solution, then

e.2.) pregabalin and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably Decylis oleas and preservatives preferably an aqueous EDTA solution are added to the lipid phase then the thus obtained mixture is homogenized with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably

5-10 times using pressure between 500-2000 bar, preferably between 500-1500 bar, most preferably 1000-1500 bar, then

if necessary further rheology modifier or excipients are added.

29. Process according to any of Claims 18-28 characterized in that the mixture of phospholipid, pregabalin and a solvent or a mixture of solvents, preferably water or a mixture of water and an alcohol, more preferably a mixture of water with ethanol or isopropanol, most preferably a mixture of water and isopropanol and optionally other excipients preferably emollient(s), preferably octyldecanol and/or penetration enhancer(s), preferably DL-alpha-Tocopherol, then

- homogenized with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably aqueous ammonia solution rheology modifier and optionally other excipients are added to the thus obtained mixture and homogenized, or

- the thus obtained mixture is added to a gel phase prepared by swelling a rheology modifier, preferably poloxamer, polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier if necessary, preferably aqueous ammonia solution and the thus obtained composition is homogenized with an HPH homogenizer preferably 1-125 times, more preferably 3-10 times, most preferably 5-10 times, then if necessary further excipients are added and the thus given mixture is homogenized.

30. Process according to any of Claims 18-29 characterized in that the used pregabalin preferably has a D_{90} of particle size of ground pregabalin between 20-200 micrometer, more preferably the used pregabalin is micronized having a D_{90} of particle size below 20 micrometer.

31. Process according to any of Claims 18-30 characterized in that the mixture of phospholipid is prepared by swelling the phospholipid, preferably lecithin, more preferably soya lecithin,

deoiled soya lecithin, lipoid P75, lipoid S75, with 10-30 fold preferably 1-20 fold weight amount of water by the weight of phospholipid and the thus obtained swollen phospholipid is mixed with other excipients to form the lipid phase.

32. Process according to any of Claims 19-31 characterized in that the gel phase is prepared by swelling the rheology modifier, preferably polyethylene glycol, synthetic polymers preferably carbomers (polyacrylic acid) more preferably carbomer 980, hydroxyalkyl celluloses, preferably hydroxyethyl cellulose and vegetable gums, preferably xanthan gum or guar gum, most preferably carbomer 980 in a solvent, preferably water in an amount of 10-30 fold, preferably 1-20 fold weight amount of solvent, preferably water by the weight of rheology modifier and the pH of the gel phase is adjusted with a pH modifier.

33. Process according to any of Claims 18-32 characterized in that the temperature of the mixture during the homogenization with a high shear mixing equipment, most preferably with an HPH is kept between 0-50 °C, preferably 20-45 °C, most preferably 25-35 °C.

34. Process according to any of Claims 18-32 characterized in that the HPH homogenization is carried out so that the pressure used is between 500 and 2000 bar, preferably between 500 and 1500 bar, most preferably between 1000 and 1500 bar.

35. The composition according to any of the Claims 1-18 for the use in the treatment of neuropathic pain, in peripheral neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by diabetic patients or by patients who have had herpes zoster (shingles), and central neuropathic pain, such as the pain experienced by patients who have had a spinal-cord injury; diabetic neuropathy, causalgia, brachial plexus avulsion, occipital neuralgia, reflex sympathetic dystrophy, fibromyalgia, gout, phantom limb pain, bum pain, and other forms of neuralgic, neuropathic, and idiopathic pain syndromes, preferable for the treatment neuropathy, diabetic neuropathy, peripheral neuropathic pain, post herpetic pain.