

CLAIMS:

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one food dye, for use in medicine.
- 5 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the food dye is a food azo dye.
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the food azo dye is a sulfonated food azo dye.
4. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition is for use in the
- 10 prophylaxis or treatment of virus infection or virus-related disease.
5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the virus infection or virus-related disease is caused by enterovirus, preferably EV71 and/or coxsackievirus.
- 15 6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the virus-related disease is selected from a group comprising hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), polio, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis and acute cardiopulmonary dysfunction.
7. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one food dye is selected from a group comprising:
- 20 E102 Tartrazine (Trisodium (4E)-5-oxo-1-(4-sulfonatophenyl)-4-[(4-sulfonatophenyl)hydrazono]-3-pyrazolecarboxylate),
- E110 Sunset Yellow FCF (Disodium 6-hydroxy-5-[(4-sulfophenyl)azo]-2-naphthalenesulfonate),
- 25 E122 Carmoisine (disodium 4-hydroxy-2-[(E)-(4-sulfonato-1-naphthyl)diazenyl]naphthalene-1-sulfonate),
- E123 Amaranth (Trisodium (4E)-3-oxo-4-[(4-sulfonato-1-naphthyl)hydrazono]naphthalene-2,7-disulfonate),
- E124 Ponceau 4R (1-(4-sulpho-1-naphthylazo)- 2-naphthol- 6,8-disulphonic acid, trisodium
- 30 salt),
- E126 Ponceau 6R (disodium 7-hydroxy-8-(naphthalen-1-diazenyl)naphthalene-1,3-disulfonate),
- E129 Allura Red (Disodium 6-hydroxy-5-[(2-methoxy-5-methyl-4-sulfophenyl)azo]-2-naphthalenesulfonate) and
- 35 E151 Brilliant Black BN (tetrasodium 4-acetamido-5-hydroxy-6-[7-sulphonato-4-(4-sulphonatophenylazo)-1-naphthylazo]naphthalene-1,7-disulphonate).

8. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the at least one food dye is selected from a group consisting of E122 Carmoisine, E123 Amaranth, E129 Allura Red and E151 Brilliant Black BN.
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9. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, comprising pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates, or pharmaceutically functional derivatives of said at least one food dye.
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10. The composition of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered orally and/or or topically to a subject.
11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the composition is formulated as a gel, cream, foam, lotion or ointment.
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12. The composition of claim 10 or 11, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered continuously to a subject for a period of 2 to 5 days, preferably a period of 3 to 4 days.
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13. The composition of claim 12, wherein the composition is formulated to be administered at up to a maximum dose of 4 mg/kg body weight/day (for E122); 15 mg/kg body weight/day (for E123); 7 mg/kg body weight/day (for E129) or 5 mg/kg body weight/day (for E151).
14. Use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 13 for the manufacture of a medicament
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- for the treatment or prophylaxis of enterovirus infection or enterovirus-related disease.
15. The use according to claim 14, wherein the enterovirus is EV71 and/or coxsackievirus.
16. The use according to claim 14 or 15, wherein the enterovirus-related disease is hand,
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- foot and mouth disease (HFMD), polio, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis, or acute cardiopulmonary dysfunction.
17. A method of treating or preventing enterovirus infection or enterovirus-related disease, the method comprising administering an effective amount of the composition of any one of
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- claims 1 to 13 to a subject in need thereof.

18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the enterovirus is EV71 and/or coxsackievirus.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the enterovirus-related disease is selected from a group comprising Hand, foot and mouth disease (HFMD), polio, aseptic meningitis, encephalitis, acute flaccid paralysis and acute cardiopulmonary dysfunction.

20. The method according to any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the composition is administered for a period of 2 to 5 days, preferably a period of 3 to 4 days.

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21. The method according to any one of claims 17 to 20, wherein the composition is administered at up to a maximum dose of 4 mg/kg body weight/day (for E122); 15 mg/kg body weight/day (for E123); 7 mg/kg body weight/day (for E129) or 5 mg/kg body weight/day (for E151).

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22. A kit for treating or preventing enterovirus infection or enterovirus-related disease, the kit comprising the composition of any one of claims 1 to 13.