What is claimed is:

1. An opiate analgesic drug formulation comprising a solid, controlled release, oral dosage form comprising a plurality of multi-layer pellets, each pellet comprising:

a) a water soluble core

b) an antagonist layer comprising naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone coating the core;

c) a sequestering polymer layer coating the antagonist layer;

d) an agonist layer comprising an opioid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the opioid coating the sequestering polymer layer, and

e) a controlled release layer coating the agonist layer

wherein substantially no naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone is released when administered intact to a human and wherein respiratory depression which is induced in a human when the formulation has been tampered with prior to administration to the human is attenuated by the release of naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone.

2. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$.

3. The formulation of claim 2 wherein the reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$ is at least 5%.

4. The formulation of claim 1 wherein attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by by an increase in oxygen saturation (SpO_2) levels.

5. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the opioid is morphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of morphine.

6. The formulation of claim 1 wherein the opioid is oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxycodone.

7. Use of an opiate analgesic drug formulation in the manufacture of a medicament for attenuating drug-mediated respiratory depression in a human following administration of a respiratory depression-mediating opioid drug to the human, wherein the formulation comprises a plurality of multi-layer pellets, each pellet comprising:

a) a water soluble core

b) an antagonist layer comprising naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone coating the core;

c) a sequestering polymer layer coating the antagonist layer;

d) an agonist layer comprising an opioid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the opioid coating the sequestering polymer layer, and

e) a controlled release layer coating the agonist layer

wherein substantially no naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone is released when administered intact to a human and wherein respiratory depression which is induced in a human when the formulation has been tampered with prior to administration to the human is attenuated by the release of naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone.

8. The formulation of claim 7 wherein the attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$.

9. The formulation of claim 8 wherein the reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$ is at least 5%.

10. The formulation of claim 7 wherein attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by an increase in oxygen saturation (SpO_2) levels.

11. The formulation of claim 7 wherein the opioid is morphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of morphine.

12. The formulation of claim 7 wherein the opioid is oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxycodone.

CLAIMS

1. Use of an opiate analgesic drug formulation in the manufacture of a medicament for attenuating drug-mediated respiratory depression in a human following administration of a respiratory depression-mediating opioid drug to the human, wherein the formulation comprises a plurality of multi-layer pellets, each pellet comprising:

a) a water soluble core;

b) an antagonist layer comprising naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone coating the core;

c) a sequestering polymer layer coating the antagonist layer;

d) an agonist layer comprising an opioid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of the opioid coating the sequestering polymer layer; and

e) a controlled release layer coating the agonist layer wherein substantially no naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone is released when administered intact to a human and wherein any release of the opiate drug which will lead to respiratory depression induced in a human when the formulation has been tampered with prior to administration to the human is attenuated by the corresponding release of naltrexone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of naltrexone.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$.

3. The use as claimed in claim 2, wherein the reduction in $P_{ET}CO_2$ is at least 5%.

4. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein attenuation of respiratory depression is measured by an increase in oxygen saturation (SpO_2) levels.

5. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opioid is morphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of morphine.

6. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the opioid is oxycodone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of oxycodone.