COMBINATION OF TWO ANTIVIRALS FOR TREATING HEPATITIS C

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/783,376, filed March 14, 2013, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to interferon-free and ribavirin-free treatment for hepatitis C virus (HCV).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] The HCV is an RNA virus belonging to the Hepacivirus genus in the Flaviviridae family. The enveloped HCV virion contains a positive stranded RNA genome encoding all known virus-specific proteins in a single, uninterrupted, open reading frame. The open reading frame comprises approximately 9500 nucleotides and encodes a single large polyprotein of about 3000 amino acids. The polyprotein comprises a core protein, envelope proteins E1 and E2, a membrane bound protein p7, and the non-structural proteins NS2, NS3, NS4A, NS4B, NS5A and NS5B.

[0004] Chronic HCV infection is associated with progressive liver pathology, including cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. Chronic hepatitis C may be treated with peginterferon-alpha in combination with ribavirin. Substantial limitations to efficacy and tolerability remain as many users suffer from side effects, and viral elimination from the body is often incomplete. Therefore, there is a need for new therapies to treat HCV infection.

SUMMARY

[0005] Disclosed are methods for treating HCV infection in a subject in need of such treatment. The methods comprise administering at least two direct acting antiviral agents (DAAs) to the subject for a duration of no more than 12 weeks, or for another duration as set forth herein. The at least two DAAs comprise Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof). Preferably, the duration of the treatment is 12 weeks. The duration of the treatment can also be, for example, no more than 8 weeks. Preferably, the two or more DAAs are administered in amounts effective to provide a sustained virological response (SVR) or achieve another desired measure of effectiveness in the subject. The subject is not administered ribavirin during the treatment regimen. The subject is also not administered interferon during the treatment regimen. Put another way, the methods exclude the administration of interferon or ribavirin to the subject, thereby avoiding the side effects associated with interferon and ribavirin.

[0005a] In one aspect, there is provided use of at least two direct acting antiviral agents (DAAs) in the manufacture of a medicament for treating HCV in a patient, wherein neither interferon nor ribavirin are administered to said patient during said treatment, and said treatment lasts for 16 weeks, and wherein said at least two DAAs comprise: Compound 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and Compound 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0006] Disclosed are methods for treating a population of subjects having HCV infection. The methods comprise administering at least two DAAs to the subjects for a duration of no more than 12 weeks. The at least two DAAs comprise Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof). Preferably, the at least two DAAs are administered to the subjects in amounts effective to result in SVR or another measure of effectiveness in at least about 70% of the population, preferably at least about 80% of the population, or more preferably at least about 90% of the population.

[0007] In any method described herein, the at least two DAAs comprise (a) Compound 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (b) Compound 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. The at least two DAAs can also optionally comprise another anti-HCV agent. The other optional anti-HCV agent can be selected from protease inhibitors, nucleoside or nucleotide polymerase inhibitors, non-nucleoside polymerase inhibitors, NS3B inhibitors, NS4A inhibitors, NS5A inhibitors, NS5B inhibitors, cyclophilin inhibitors, or combinations thereof. For example, in some embodiments, the DAAs used in a method of the present disclosure comprise or consist of (a) Compound 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (b) Compound 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. For another example, the DAAs used in a method of the present disclosure comprise or consist of (a) Compound 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, (b) Compound 2 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and (c) a HCV polymerase inhibitor, wherein said HCV polymerase inhibitor can be a nucleotide or nucleoside polymerase inhibitor or a non-nucleoside or non-nucleotide polymerase inhibitor.

[0008] Non-limiting examples of the other optional antic-HCV agent include PSI-7977 (sofosbuvir), PSI-938, BMS-790052 (daclatasvir), BMS-650032 (asunaprevir), BMS-791325, GS-5885 (ledipasvir), GS-9451 (tegobuvir), GS-9190, GS-9256, BI-201335, BI-27127, telaprevir, VX-222, TMC-435 (simepravir), MK-5172, MK-7009 (vaniprevir), danoprevir, R7128 (mericitabine), and any combination thereof.

[0009] In any method described herein, the DAAs can be administered in any effective dosing schemes and/or frequencies; for example, they can each be administered daily. Each DAA can be administered either separately or in combination, and each DAA can be administered once a day, twice a day, or three times a day. Preferably, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) are administered once daily.

[0010] Preferably, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 100 mg to 600 mg once daily, and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 50 to 500 mg once daily. More preferably, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 200 mg to 600 mg once daily, and Compound 2 (or a

pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 100 to 500 mg once daily. Highly preferably, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 400 mg to 600 mg once daily, and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered from 100 to 500 mg once daily. For instance, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) can be administered 400 mg once daily, and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) is administered 120 mg once daily. For another instance, Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) can be administered 400 mg once daily, and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) can be administered 240 mg once daily.

[0011] Disclosed is a combination of Compound 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) for use to treat HCV infection. The treatment comprises administering the DAAs to a subject infected with HCV. The duration of the treatment regimen is no more than twelve weeks (e.g., the duration being 12 weeks; or the duration being 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, or 3 weeks). Preferably, the duration of the treatment regimen is twelve weeks. The duration of the treatment can also last, for example, no more than eight weeks (e.g., the duration being 8 weeks; or the duration being 7, 6, 5, 4, or 3 weeks). The treatment does not include administering interferon or ribavirin. Compound 1 (or the salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or the salt thereof) can be administered concurrently or sequentially. Preferably, Compound 1 (or the salt thereof) and Compound 2 (or the salt thereof) can be administered once daily. As a non-limiting example, the patient being treated is infected with HCV genotype 1, such as genotype 1a or 1b. As another non-limiting example, the patient is infected with HCV genotype 2. As another non-limiting example, the patient is infected with HCV genotype 3. As another non-limiting example, the patient is infected with HCV genotype 4. As another non-limiting example, the patient is infected with HCV genotype 5. As another non-limiting example, the patient is infected with HCV genotype 6. As yet another non-limiting example, the patient is a HCV-treatment naïve patient, a HCV-treatment experienced patient, an interferon non-responder (e.g., a null responder), or not a candidate for interferon treatment. As used in this application, the interferon non-responder patients include partial interferon responders and interferon rebound patients. *See* GUIDANCE FOR INDUSTRY – CHRONIC HEPATITIS C VIRUS INFECTION: DEVELOPING DIRECT-ACTING ANTIVIRAL AGENTS FOR TREATMENT (FDA, September 2010, draft guidance) for the definitions of naive, partial responder, responder relapser (i.e., rebound), and null responder patients. The interferon non-responder patients also include null responder patients. In one example of this embodiment of the disclosure, the treatment lasts for 12 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 1. In another example, the treatment lasts for 11 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 1. In still another example, the treatment lasts for 10 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype

1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 9 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 8 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 12 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 3. In another example, the treatment lasts for 11 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 3. In still another example, the treatment lasts for 10 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 3. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 9 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 3. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 8 weeks, and the subject being treated is a naïve patient infected with HCV genotype 3. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 12 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 1. In another example, the treatment lasts for 11 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 1. In still another example, the treatment lasts for 10 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 9 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 8 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 1. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 12 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 3. In another example, the treatment lasts for 11 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 3. In still another example, the treatment lasts for 10 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 3. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 9 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 3. In yet another example, the treatment lasts for 8 weeks, and the subject being treated is a non-responder (e.g., a null responder) infected with HCV genotype 3.

[0012] A treatment regimen of the present disclosure generally constitutes a complete treatment regimen, i.e., no subsequent interferon-containing regimen is intended. Thus, a treatment or use described herein generally does not include any subsequent interferon-containing treatment. Preferably, a treatment or use described herein does not include any subsequent ribavirin-containing treatment.

[0013] Other features, objects, and advantages of the present disclosure are apparent in the detailed description that follows. It should be understood, however, that the detailed description, while indicating preferred embodiments of the disclosure, are given by way of illustration only, not limitation. Various changes and modifications within the scope of the disclosure will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the detailed description.