CLAIMS

1. Use of a monolithic intravaginal ring in the preparation of a medicament for administering progesterone to a subject in need thereof, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises progesterone and releases progesterone at a steady state for up to 18 days after the administration to the subject,

wherein the intravaginal ring comprises progesterone and releases progesterone so that serum progesterone levels in the subject are maintained at 4 ng/ml to 10 ng/ml from 1 day to 18 days after administration to the subject,

wherein progesterone is homogeneously dispersed in the ring and

wherein the intravaginal ring further comprises a polysiloxane elastomer and a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrocarbon or glycerol ester of a fatty acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable oil.

2. The use of claim 1, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable hydrocarbon or glycerol ester of a fatty acid.

3. The use of claim 2, wherein the polysiloxane elastomer is present in a concentration of 55% to 90% by total weight of the ring.

4. The use of claim 2 or 3, wherein the polysiloxane elastomer is dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer.

5. The use of claim 2, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable hydrocarbon or glycerol ester of a fatty acid is present in a concentration of 0.1% to 10% by total weight of the ring.

6. The use of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the progesterone is present in a concentration of 15% to 30% by total weight of the ring.

7. The use of claim 4, wherein the polysiloxane elastomer is a dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer, and wherein the ratio of progesterone to elastomer is 1:1 to

1:10, the progesterone is homogeneously dispersed in the elastomer, and the ratio of progesterone to hydrocarbon or glycerol esters of a fatty acid is 1:0.1 to 1:100.

8. The use of claim 6, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises:

(a) 15% to 25% by weight of the progesterone;

(b) 70% to 80% by weight of a dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer; and

(c) 1% to 10% by weight of the pharmaceutically acceptable hydrocarbon or glycerol esters of a fatty acid,

wherein the progesterone is homogeneously dispersed in the elastomer.

9. The use of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the intravaginal ring releases 11 mg to 15 mg progesterone per day at a steady state for up to 14 days after the administration to the subject.

10. The use of claim 1, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable oil.

11. The use of claim 10, wherein the polysiloxane elastomer is dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer.

12. The use of claim 10 or 11, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable oil is present in a concentration of 0.1% to 10% by total weight of the ring.

13. The use of any one of claims 10-12, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable oil is mineral oil.

14. The use of any one of claims 10-14, wherein the progesterone is present in a concentration of 15% to 30% by total weight of the ring.

15. The use of any one of claims 10-14, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises:

the progesterone, a dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer, and a pharmaceutically acceptable oil, in a ratio of 4:15:1, respectively,

wherein the progesterone is homogeneously dispersed in the elastomer.

16. The use of any one of claims 10-14, wherein the intravaginal ring comprises:
(a) 15% to 25% by weight of the progesterone;
(b) 70% to 80% by weight of a dimethylpolysiloxane elastomer; and
(c) 1% to 10% by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable oil,
wherein the progesterone is homogeneously dispersed in the elastomer.