antibodies that bind to, and neutralize, IL-13 have been sought as a means to inhibit IL-13 activity. However, there exists a need in the art for improved antibodies capable of binding IL-13 for treating asthma.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides methods and compositions for treating asthma, *e.g.*, mild or moderate asthma, using an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof.

In one aspect, there is provided the use of an isolated composition comprising an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing asthma in a human subject wherein, when administered intravenously to the human subject at a dose of about 0.3 mg/kg, the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, is capable of exhibiting:

(a) an area under the curve (AUC) of between about 1,500 and about 2,700 μgh/ml;

(b) a volume of distribution of between about 65 and 125 mL/kg;

(c) a peak concentration (C_{max}) of between about 5 and about 8 μg/ml; and

(d) a clearance rate of between about 0.1 and about 0.2 ml/h/kg.

In one aspect, there is provided the use of an isolated composition comprising about 0.3 mg/kg of an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating asthma in a human subject, wherein the composition is formulated for intravenous administration, and wherein the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, is capable of exhibiting at least one pharmacokinetic characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a clearance rate of between about 0.11 to about 0.19 mL/hr/kg; or

(b) a volume of distribution of between about 70 to about 130 mL/kg.

In one aspect, the invention provides an isolated composition comprising an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein, when administered intravenously to a subject at a dose of about 0.3 mg/kg, the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, is capable of exhibiting: (a) an area under the curve (AUC) of between about 1,500 and about 2,700 μgh/ml; (b) a volume of distribution of between about 65 and 125 mL/kg; (c) a peak concentration (C_{max}) of between about 5 and about 8 μg/ml; and (d) a clearance rate of between about 0.1 and about 0.2 ml/h/kg.

In another aspect, the invention provides an isolated composition comprising an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein, when administered intravenously to a subject at a dose of about 3 mg/kg, the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, is capable of exhibiting: (a) an area under the curve (AUC) of between about 21,000 and about 33,500 μgh/ml; (b) a volume of distribution of between about 55 and about 100 mL/kg; (c) a peak concentration (C_{max}) of between about 55 and about 90 μg/ml; and (d) a clearance rate of between about 0.08 and about 0.15 ml/h/kg.

In another aspect, the invention provides an isolated composition comprising an anti-IL-13 antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, wherein, when administered intravenously to a subject at a dose of about 10 mg/kg, the antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, is capable of exhibiting: (a) an area under the curve (AUC) of between about 75 and about 100 μgh/ml; (b) a volume of distribution of between about 90 and