CLAIMS

1. Use of citric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, a hydrate of citric acid, a hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or a mixture thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for protecting renal function.

2. Use of citric acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, a hydrate of citric acid, a hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or a mixture thereof in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for reducing a dietary acid load on a kidney.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is to be administered to an early-stage chronic kidney disease patient.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the citric acid, the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, the hydrate of citric acid, the hydrate of the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of citric acid, or the mixture thereof is sodium citrate or a hydrate

of sodium citrate, potassium citrate or a hydrate of potassium citrate, or a mixture thereof.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the pharmaceutical composition comprises anhydrous citric acid.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pharmaceutical composition decreases a concentration of protein in urine.

7. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the pharmaceutical composition suppresses an increase in concentration of protein in urine associated with progression of chronic kidney disease.

8. The use according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the urine is early morning urine.

9. The use according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the protein in urine is albumin in urine.