

Claims

1. A substance delivery system comprising at least one polymeric material forming a matrix and an anabolic drug, wherein the at least one polymeric material is a combination of collagen and glycosaminoglycan (GAG) and wherein said anabolic drug is included in the at least one polymeric material forming the matrix, wherein the matrix is a biphasic scaffold or a biphasic membrane, and wherein the anabolic drug is an FGF-18 compound at a dose from 5 to 100 mcg/system and wherein the FGF-18 compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the human FGF-18 mature form comprising residues 28-207 of SEQ ID NO:1, or
- b) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

~~2. The substance delivery system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one polymeric material is a combination of collagen and glycosaminoglycan (GAG).~~

~~3. The substance delivery system according to any one of the preceding claims 1, which further comprises chondrogenic cells.~~

~~4. A process for producing the substance delivery system according to any one of the preceding claims 1 to 3, which comprises the steps of: a) preparing a matrix comprising at least one polymeric material, and b) adding the anabolic drug to the matrix prepared in step a), wherein said anabolic drug is included in the at least one polymeric material forming the matrix, wherein the anabolic drug is an FGF-18 compound at a dose from 5 to 100 mcg/system and wherein the FGF-18 compound is selected from the group consisting of:~~

- ~~a) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the human FGF-18 mature form comprising residues 28-207 of SEQ ID NO:1, or~~
- ~~b) a polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.~~

~~5. The process according to claim 3 which further comprises the step c) adding chondrogenic cells to the matrix prepared in step a).~~

~~6. A substance delivery system according to any one of claims 1 to 3 for use in the treatment of a cartilage disorder.~~

~~7. The substance delivery system for use according to claim 6, wherein the cartilage disorder is selected from osteoarthritis, cartilage injury and osteochondral defects.~~

~~8. The substance delivery system for use according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the substance delivery system is to be administered to a patient in need of said treatment via a transplantation procedure.~~

98. An article of manufacture comprising the substance delivery system according to any one of claims 1 to ~~4~~ 2.