CLAIMS

1. Use of Brain derived nerve factor (BDNF) in manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of sensorineural hearing loss in a subject, wherein said BDNF is to be administered intranasally to said subject.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein said sensorineural hearing loss is of non-genetic etiology.

3. The use as claimed in claim 2, wherein said sensorineural hearing loss of non-genetic etiology is caused by noise exposure, a bacterial or viral infection, the treatment with an ototoxic drug, an autoimmune disease or aging.

4. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said BDNF is human BDNF, more preferably it is recombinant human BDNF.

5. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said BDNF is to be administered from one to three times a day for a period of treatment of between 7 and 300 days, preferably between 60 and 240 days, more preferably between 100 and 200 days.

6. The use as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the amount of BDNF per each administration is between 5 µg and 1 mg, more preferably between 10 µg and 400 µg, even more preferably between 15 µg and 200 µg.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising, preferably consisting of:

-BDNF, preferably at a concentration between 5 µg/ml and 1 mg/ml, more preferably between 10 µg/ml and 400 µg/ml, even more preferably between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml,

-$NaH_2PO_4 * H_2O$, preferably at a concentration between 5 and 8 mg/ml, more preferably of 6.9 mg/mL,

-NaCl, preferably at a concentration between 5 and 6.5 mg/ml, more preferably of 5.84 mg/mL,

- Poloxamer 188, preferably at a concentration between 0.05 % w/v and 0.2% w/v,

more preferably of 0.1% w/v,

-L-Methionine, preferably at a concentration between 0.005 mg/ml and 0.02 mg/ml, more preferably of 0.01 mg/ml,

- Optionally, n-Dodecyl-β-D-maltoside, preferably at a concentration between 0.1 % w/v and 1% w/v, more preferably of 0.5% w/v,

-Water.

8. The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein said BDNF is human BDNF, more preferably it is recombinant human BDNF.

9. Use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising BDNF and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of sensorineural hearing loss in a subject, wherein said composition is to be administered intranasally to said subject.

10. The use as claimed in claim 9, wherein said BDNF is human BDNF, more preferably it is recombinant human BDNF.

11. The use as claimed in claim 9 or claim 10, wherein said BDNF is contained in the composition at a concentration between 5 µg/ml and 1 mg/ml, more preferably between 10 µg/ml and 400 µg/ml, even more preferably between 15 µg/ml and 200 µg/ml.

12. The use as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 11, comprising, preferably consisting of BDNF, sodium chloride, phosphate buffer and water.

13. The use as claimed in any one of claims 9-12, wherein said sensorineural hearing loss of non-genetic etiology is caused by noise exposure, a bacterial or viral infection, the treatment with an ototoxic drug, an autoimmune disease or aging.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising BDNF and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, for use in therapy.