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(54) Title: A PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION CONTAINING GROWTH HORMONE, AN AMINO ACID AND A NON-IONIC DETERGENT		
(57) Abstract <p>The invention relates to pharmaceutical formulations comprising growth hormone, an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid and at least one acidic amino acid, and a non-ionic detergent, e.g. polysorbate or poloxamer. The formulation is stabilized against deamidation and aggregation. The formulation may be an aqueous formulation. The growth hormone may be human growth hormone.</p>		

A pharmaceutical formulation containing growth hormone, an amino acid and a nonionic detergent.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

- 5 The invention relates to novel pharmaceutical formulations comprising growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu, or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid and at least one acidic amino acid, and a non-ionic detergent, e.g. polysorbate or poloxamer. The invention further relates to a
- 10 method of producing such formulations, and a method of treatment using such formulations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- 15 The growth hormones from man and from the common domestic animals are proteins of approximately 191 amino acids, synthesized and secreted from the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland. Human growth hormone consists of 191 amino acids.

- 20 Growth hormone is a key hormone involved in the regulation of not only somatic growth, but also in the regulation of metabolism of proteins, carbohydrates and lipids. The major effect of growth hormone is to promote growth.

- The organ systems affected by growth hormone include the skeleton, connective
- 25 tissue, muscles, and viscera such as liver, intestine, and kidneys.

- Until the development of the recombinant technology and the cloning of the growth hormone gene now giving rise to production of e.g. human growth hormone (hGH) and Met-hGH in industrial scale, human growth hormone could only be obtained by
- 30 extraction from the pituitary glands of human cadavers. The very limited supplies of growth hormone restricted the use thereof to longitudinal growth promotion in childhood and puberty for treatment of dwarfism, even though it has been proposed for inter alia treatment of short stature (due to growth hormone deficiency, normal short

stature and Turner syndrome), growth hormone deficiency in adults, infertility, treatment of burns, wound healing, dystrophy, bone knitting, osteoporosis, diffuse gastric bleeding, and pseudoarthrosis.

- 5 Furthermore, growth hormone has been proposed for increasing the rate of growth of domestic animals or for decreasing the proportion of fat.

Pharmaceutical preparations of growth hormone tend to be unstable. Degradation products such as deamidated or sulfoxidated products and dimer or polymer forms
10 are generated - especially in solutions of growth hormone.

The predominant chemical degradation reactions of hGH are 1) deamidation by direct hydrolysis or via a cyclic succinimide intermediate to form various amounts of L-asp-hGH, L-iso-asp-hGH, D-asp-hGH, and D-iso-asp-hGH (ref 1-3), 2) oxidation of the
15 methionine residues in positions 14 and 125 (ref 4-9), and 3) cleavage of peptide bonds.

Deamidation especially takes place at the Asn in position 149.

- 20 hGH is rather easily oxidized in positions 14 and 125, especially in solution (4-8), since the oxidation of hGH in solution forming sulfoxides is normally due to the oxygen dissolved in the preparation.

At present, it is not believed that these degradation products should have toxic or
25 altered biological activity or receptor binding properties, but there is indication to the effect that the conformation stability of the sulfoxides is reduced as compared to native hGH.

Other "degradation products" of growth hormone are aggregation products such as
30 dimers and polymers. Studies have been performed to clarify the role of these forms in inducing an immune response with measurable amounts of antibodies to native hGH. These studies have indicated that aggregates of hGH are the primary cause of immunogenicity in patients.

Thus, it is desirable in a pharmaceutical formulation to avoid the formation of aggregates of growth hormone since such aggregates are capable of causing undesirable immunogenicity or altered half-life.

5

The kinetics of degradation depend on temperature, pH and various additives or adjuvants in the hGH formulation.

Due to the instability, a growth hormone formulation is at present normally lyophilized and stored in the lyophilized form at 2-8°C until it is reconstituted for use in order to minimize the degradation. The lyophilized pharmaceutical preparations comprising hGH are reconstituted by the patient and then stored as a solution during the use for a period of up to 30 days, during which some degradation will take place.

15 It is at present preferred to reconstitute the growth hormone as late as possible before use and to store and ship the preparation in a lyophilized state. The chain from the manufacturer to the pharmacy is apt for handling the preparations at a controlled low temperature of e.g. 2-8°C which allows for a shelf life of up to three years.

20 Preferably, a lyophilized and then reconstituted preparation should be stable with the end user in a lyophilized state for about one month and additionally for one month in a reconstituted state in a pen device for the intended period of use of a cartridge.

As an alternative to lyophilized and reconstituted preparations, growth hormone may be formulated as a liquid formulation suitable for use in vials or in a pen system for self-medication. The extended use of pen systems for self-medication and the expanded field of use calls for a preparation which is stable for a sufficient long time with the end user. Such stabilization is of very great importance when moving the administration of the growth hormone from clinics to the homes of the individuals to be treated where optimal storage conditions may not be available. A "ready to use" formulation furthermore diminishes any handling problems in connection with reconstitution and thus represents a convenience for the patient.

A stable dissolved preparation comprising growth hormone may be produced ready to use in the form of vials used by the patient in combination with conventional syringes or as cartridges fitting into the pen device used by the patient. In both cases, the patient may then avoid the reconstitution of the preparation and, hence, will not have to be in the possession of a lyophilized preparation, a suitable vehicle for reconstitution as well as the necessary skill and sterile equipment for sterile reconstitution of the preparation. Safety reasons also make it desirable to avoid the reconstitution of a lyophilized preparation just before the use of the preparation.

10

From the manufacturer's point of view, it may be an advantage to avoid the lyophilization step in the production of growth hormone preparations. Lyophilization is a time consuming and costly process and is also often a "bottleneck" in the production due to the limited capacity of the freeze drier.

15

Thus, there is a need for more stable dissolved preparations of growth hormone in order to facilitate the handling to be performed by the patient.

Thus, there is also a need to reduce the rate of the degradation processes in order to allow for dissolved hGH preparations being stable during shelf life and during the period of use of up to about one month.

20

Prior art

Prior attempts to stabilize hGH has not fully succeeded in preventing the formation of dimer. The problems associated with dimer formation is e.g noted in Becker, G.W., Biotechnology and Applied Biochemistry 9, 478 (1987).

25

International Patent Publication No. WO 89/09614 and Australian patent application No. 30771/89 disclose a stable pharmaceutical formulation containing human growth hormone, glycine, and mannitol. Such a formulation shows improved stability during normal processing and storage in a lyophilized state as well as in the period of use after the reconstitution.

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Published European patent application No. 303 746 discloses that animal growth hormone may be stabilized with various stabilizers to give decreased formation of insolubles and preservation of the soluble activity in aqueous environments, such stabilizers including certain polyols, amino acids, polymers of amino acids having a charged side group at physiological pH, and choline salts. Polyols are selected from the group consisting of non-reducing sugars, sugar alcohols, sugar acids, pentaerythritol, lactose, water-soluble dextrans and Ficoll; amino acids are selected from the group consisting of glycine, sarcosine, lysine or salts thereof, serine, arginine or salts thereof, betaine, N,N,-dimethyl-glycine, aspartic acid or salts thereof, glutamic acid or salts thereof; a polymer of an amino acid having a charged side group at physiological pH may be selected from polylysine, polyaspartic acid, polyglutamic acid, polyarginine, polyhistidine, polyornithine and salts thereof; and choline derivatives are selected from the group consisting of choline chloride, choline dihydrogen citrate, choline bitartrate, choline bicarbonate, tricholine citrate, choline ascorbate, choline borate, choline gluconate, choline phosphate, di(choline)sulphate and dicholine mucate.

US patent specification No. 4,917,685 discloses a delivery device designed to be implanted comprising growth hormone stabilized using the same stabilizers as mentioned in EP 303746.

Published European patent application No. 374,120 discloses a stabilized formulation comprising hGH and a polyol having three hydroxy groups. Glycerol and tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane are mentioned. Furthermore, the presence of histidine hydrochloride as a buffer together with the polyol is disclosed.

International Patent Publication No. WO 93/12811 discloses stabilized formulations of growth hormone in the form of a lyophilized powder or an aqueous solution - comprising asparagine.

International Patent Publication No. WO 93/12812 discloses stabilized formulations of growth hormone in the form of a lyophilized powder or an aqueous solution comprising histidine. In such formulations the deamidation is reduced by 25-30% as

compared to a corresponding formulation of growth hormone comprising phosphate buffer.

5 International patent Publication No. WO 96/11703 discloses stabilized formulations of growth hormone comprising isoleucine.

International patent Publication No. WO 96/11702 discloses stabilized formulations of growth hormone comprising valine.

10 International patent Publication No. WO 96/11704 discloses stabilized formulations of growth hormone comprising leucine.

15 International Patent Publication No. WO 93/19776 discloses protein formulations comprising growth hormone comprising citrate as buffer substance being more stable than formulations comprising phosphate buffer. The formulations may also comprise amino acids such as glycine and alanine and/or mannitol or other sugar alcohols and/or glycerol and/or other carbohydrates and optionally a preservative such as benzyl alcohol.

20 International Patent Publication No. WO 94/03198 discloses a stable aqueous formulation containing human growth hormone, a buffer, a non-ionic surfactant, and, optionally, a neutral salt, mannitol, or, a preservative. The buffer may be histidine even though citrate is preferred. The application discloses a preferred formulation containing citrate as buffer, and sodium chloride and polysorbate 20 (Tween 20) for stabilization. This combination stabilizes the said aqueous formulation against
25 aggregation but does give rise to a considerable amount of deamidated growth hormone.

International patent Publication No. WO 95/35116 discloses a stable lyophilized formulation containing saccharose and, optionally, mannitol.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

It has now surprisingly been found that a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, 5 Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH shows a high stability against deamidation and aggregation. The stability of the product allows for the storing and shipment thereof in a lyophilized state or in the form of a dissolved or re-dissolved formulation.

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The peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue to be used in accordance with the present invention may be a peptide comprising up to 20 amino acid residues, preferably from 3 to 10 amino acid residues, more preferred from 3 to 6 amino acid residues such as 3 or 4 amino acid 15 residues (e.g. Lys-Gly-Asp-Ser). In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the basic and acid amino residues of shorter peptides are separated by 1 or 2 amino acid residues. The peptides preferably comprise the naturally occurring alpha amino acid residues. The amino acid(s) may be l or d amino acid(s) or a mixture thereof. "Acidic amino acid residues" are e.g. Glu or Asp, and "basic amino acid residues" are e.g. Lys 20 or Arg.

The derivatives of histidine to be used in accordance with the present invention may be amides and esters of histidine such as the methyl or ethyl ester, dipeptides having the sequence His-X or X-His, where X is a naturally occurring α -amino acid residue, - 25 and analogues or derivatives of His such as imidazole, des-amino-His or poly-His.

In a preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, 30 wherein the amount of the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH. In another preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone and histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide

comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.

- 5 In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the amount of peptide, or selected amino acid, or histidine, or derivative of histidine, is from about 0.05 to about 5 mg per mg of GH, more preferred from about 0.05 to about 1 mg per mg of GH, even more preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.7 mg per mg of GH, and even more preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.5 mg per mg of GH.

10

In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the non-ionic detergent is selected from a polysorbate or a poloxamer, e.g. polysorbate 20, poloxamer 188, or poloxamer 407 (e.g. Pluronic® F68, Lutrol 127, Tween 20), most preferred poloxamer 188.

- 15 In another aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation of growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from
20 about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.

- In a preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent,
25 wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH. In another preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone (GH), or a derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent,
30 wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.

In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH, more preferred from about 0.05 to about 5 mg per mg of GH, even more preferred from about 0.1 to about 3 mg per mg of GH, even more preferred from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH.

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In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the non-ionic detergent is selected from a polysorbate or a poloxamer, e.g. polysorbate 20, poloxamer 188, or poloxamer 407 (e.g. Pluronic® F68, Lutrol 127, Tween 20), most preferred poloxamer 188.

10 Another aspect of the invention is a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid and at least one acidic amino acid, and a non-ionic
15 detergent, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine, is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH.

In a preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid
20 selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the amount of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH. In another preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a
25 derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH.

30

In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine, is from about 0.05 to about 5 mg per mg of GH, more preferred from about 0.05 to about 1 mg per mg of GH, even more

preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.7 mg per mg of GH, and even more preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.5 mg per mg of GH.

5 In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the non-ionic detergent is selected from a polysorbate or a poloxamer, e.g. polysorbate 20, poloxamer 188, or poloxamer 407 (e.g. Pluronic® F68, Lutrol 127, Tween 20), most preferred poloxamer 188.

10 Another aspect of the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone, or an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a poloxamer.

15 In a preferred aspect, the invention relates to pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a poloxamer. In another preferred aspect, the invention relates to a pharmaceutical formulation comprising growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a poloxamer.

20 In a preferred embodiment of the above aspect, the poloxamer is selected from poloxamer 188, or poloxamer 407, most preferred poloxamer 188 (e.g. Pluronic® F68). In another preferred embodiment, the formulation comprises histidine, or a derivative of histidine. In a preferred embodiment, the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, 25 Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 5 mg per mg of GH, more preferred from about 0.05 to about 1 mg per mg of GH, even more preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.7 mg per mg of GH, and even more preferred from about 0.05 to about 0.5 mg per mg of GH. In a preferred embodiment, the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.05 to about 5 mg per mg of GH, more 30 preferred from about 0.1 mg to about 3 mg per mg of GH, more preferred from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH

The formulation of the invention may be in the form of a lyophilized powder to be reconstituted later using conventional vehicles such as distilled water, or water for injection, or it may be in the form of an aqueous solution comprising growth hormone. Such vehicles may comprise conventional preservatives such as m-cresol, phenol, and benzyl alcohol. As bulking agent(s) for lyophilization, one or more of the members from the group consisting of sugar alcohols, e.g. mannitol, and disaccharides, e.g. sucrose, may be selected.

Lyophilized preparations comprising sucrose are preferred due to a very high stability, and preparations comprising sucrose and mannitol are especially preferred combining very high stability with a very good processability giving firm lyophilized products being readily dissolvable and very stable in solution for an extended period of time after dissolution. Further preferred preparations according to the invention are preparations comprising mannitol and sucrose or trehalose as bulking agent for the lyophilization. Preparations according to the invention comprising mannitol and a disaccharide normally comprises about equal amount of the two constituents on a weight basis.

The amount of sucrose present in the preparations of the invention may vary within wide limits. The ratio of growth hormone to sucrose may vary from 0.005 to 1.5 on a weight basis. Thus, the amount of sucrose may be from 0.67 to 200 mg per mg of growth hormone, an amount of from 1.1 to 50 mg per mg of growth hormone being preferred.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the growth hormone is human growth hormone (hGH) and the pharmaceutical composition is further comprising a carrier in the form of an aqueous buffer. Such an aqueous preparation is in a ready-to-use form and may be stored and shipped as such without any considerable degradation.

A buffer to be used in a solution of growth hormone may e.g. be histidine, citrate, tartrate, or phosphate buffer. L-histidine has a pKA of 6.0 and is, accordingly, suitable as a buffer itself in an interval of pH from about 5 to about 7.

In a further aspect, the invention relates to a method of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the appropriate amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, is dissolved in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionized water, and a non-ionic detergent, e.g. a polysorbate or a poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8; the appropriate amount of GH being what makes the amount of peptide, Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine range from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.

In a further aspect, the invention relates to a method of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and, an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, wherein the growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, is dissolved in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionized water, and a appropriate amount of non-ionic detergent, e.g. a polysorbate or a poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8; the appropriate amount of non-ionic detergent being what makes the amount of non-ionic detergent range from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.

In a further aspect, the invention relates to a method of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an

- amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the
- 5 amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine range from about 0.05 to about 0.5 mg per mg GH, in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and such an amount of a non-ionic detergent, e.g. a polysorbate
- 10 or a poloxamer, that the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2 mg per mg of GH, in deionized water, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.
- 15 In a further aspect, the invention relates to a method of preparing a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a poloxamer, wherein the growth hormone, or
- 20 derivative of growth hormone, is dissolved in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionized water, and a poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and
- 25 optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

- The concentration of the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid and at least one acidic amino acid is preferably from about 1 mM to about 100 mM.
- 30 More preferred, the concentration of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine, or peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid and at least one acidic amino acid is from about 2 mM to about 20 mM, most preferred from about 5 mM to about 15 mM.

The pharmaceutical formulations of the invention may be formulated for administration in any suitable way, e.g. by parenteral or oral administration or administration to a mucosal membrane, e.g. nasal administration. The
5 pharmaceutical formulation may be presented in the form of a dose comprised in a vial or cartridge or any other suitable container such as a prefilled syringe or a pen device.

The pharmaceutical preparation of the invention may furthermore comprise salts
10 conventionally used in order to facilitate the processing thereof, e.g. the lyophilization or reconstitution.

For stability reasons the pH of the solution is preferably adjusted to a value in the interval from about 6.0 to about 8.8, preferably from about 6.0 to about 7.0, more
15 preferred from about 6.0 to about 6.8, even more preferred from about 6.0 to 6.3, and most preferred from about 6.0 to 6.2 (e.g. about 6.1).

The pH may be adjusted by adding an acid which has no adverse effect on the growth hormone, preferably a physiologically acceptable acid e.g. a mineral acid such
20 as hydrochloric acid, sulphuric acid or nitric acid or an organic acid such as acetic acid or citric acid.

The pharmaceutical formulation of the invention may furthermore comprise salts for adjusting the tonicity and optionally an excipient in order to facilitate the processing
25 thereof, e.g. lyophilization and the rapid and complete dissolution of a lyophilized formulation when reconstituting the formulation before use.

Such salts may be selected from conventional additives such as alkaline metal, alkaline earth metal or ammonium salts of organic acids such as citric acid, tartaric
30 acid or acetic acid, e.g. sodium citrate, sodium tartrate or sodium acetate, or of mineral acids such as hydrochloric acid, e.g. sodium chloride.

An excipient may be selected from disaccharides such as lactose, trehalose, and sucrose, sugar alcohols such as mannitol, xylitol, erythritol, threitol, sorbitol or glycerol, polysaccharides such as the polymers commercialized as Dextran® products such as Dextran® 40, Dextran® 70 or Dextran® 75, and Ficoll® and polyvalent alcohols such as polyethylene glycol or polyvinyl alcohol or a combination of two or more of these.

In the present context "growth hormone" or "GH" may be growth hormone from any origin such as avian, bovine, equine, human, ovine, porcine, salmon, trout or tuna growth hormone, preferably bovine, human or porcine growth hormone, human growth hormone being most preferred. The growth hormone used in accordance with the invention may be native growth hormone isolated from a natural source, e.g. by extracting pituitary glands in a conventional manner, or a growth hormone produced by recombinant techniques, e.g. as described in E.B. Jensen and S. Carlsen in *Biotech and Bioeng.* 36, 1-11 (1990). The "growth hormone derivative" may be a truncated form of growth hormone wherein one or more amino acid residues has (have) been deleted; an analogue thereof wherein one or more amino acid residues in the native molecule has (have) been substituted by another amino acid residue, preferably the residue of a naturally occurring amino acid, as long as the substitution does not have any adverse effect such as antigenicity or reduced action; or a derivative thereof, e.g. deamidated or sulfoxidated forms of the growth hormone or forms having an N- or C-terminal extension such as Met-hGH, Met-Glu-Ala-Glu-hGH or Ala-Glu-hGH. The preferred growth hormone is hGH. The growth hormone may be a concentrate obtained directly from the fermentation broth or a conventional lyophilized preparation which is dissolved in an appropriate solvent.

The term "derivatives of histidine" is used, for the present purpose, to designate amides and esters of histidine such as the methyl or ethyl ester, dipeptides such as His-Gly, His-Ala, His-Leu, His-Lys, His-Ser, His-Phe, and dipeptides such as Ala-His, Gly-His, Val-His, Glu-His, Met-His, Arg-His, Asp-His, Leu-His, Ser-His, and analogues or derivatives of His such as imidazole, des-amino-His or poly-His.

In the present context "non-ionic detergent" or "non-ionic surfactant" may be polysorbates, such as polysorbate 20 or 80, etc., and the poloxamers, such as

poloxamer 188 or 407, Pluronic® polyols, and other ethylene/polypropylene polymers, etc. Amounts effective to provide a stable, aqueous formulation will be used, usually in the range of from about 0.01 to about 10 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone, preferably from about 0.05 to about 5 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone, more preferred from about 0.1 to about 2 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone.

The use of non-ionic detergents permits the formulation to be exposed to shear and surface stresses without causing denaturation of the protein.

The amount of non-ionic detergent in the formulations may be in the range of from 0.01 to about 10 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone, preferably from 0.05 to about 5 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone, most preferred from 0.1 to about 2 mg detergent per mg of growth hormone.

In the present context "disaccharide" is used to designate naturally occurring disaccharides such as sucrose, trehalose, maltose, lactose, sepharose, turanose, laminaribiose, isomaltose, gentiobiose or melibiose.

A peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue to be used in accordance with the present invention is preferably comprising the naturally occurring α -amino acid residues. The amino acid(s) may be l or d amino acid(s) or a mixture thereof. A preferred peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue is Lys-Gly-Asp-Ser.

In the present context "acidic amino acid residues" are e.g. Glu or Asp, and "basic amino acid residues" are e.g. Lys or Arg.

The solvent used in the method of the invention may be water, alcohols such as ethyl, n-propyl or isopropyl, butyl alcohol or mixtures thereof. To retard microbial growth, the solvent may comprise a preservative such as m-cresol, phenol, or benzyl alcohol.

The term "dose" of growth hormone refers to that amount that provides therapeutic effect in an administration regimen. The formulations hereof are prepared containing amounts of hGH at least about 0.1 mg/ml, preferably upwards of about 1 mg/ml, preferably from about 1 mg/ml to about 40 mg/ml, more preferably from about 1 mg/ml to about 25 mg/ml, more preferably from about 1 mg/ml to about 15 mg/ml e.g. from 1 mg/ml to about 10 mg/ml, calculated on the ready-to-use formulation. For use of these compositions in administration to human beings suffering from hypopituitary dwarfism, for example, these formulations contain from about 0.1 mg/ml to about 10 mg/ml, corresponding to the currently contemplated dosage regimen for the intended treatment. The concentration range is not critical to the invention and may be varied by the physician supervising the administration.

Another aspect of the invention relates to a method of treating a patient affectable by growth hormone comprising treating the patient with an amount of the pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention effective to treat said disorder.

The invention is explained more in detail in the below Examples which illustrate the invention. They are not to be considered as limiting the scope of the invention being defined by the appended claims.

EXPERIMENTAL PART

Example 1:5 Inhibition of aggregation

Liquid formulations of hGH was prepared by dissolving hGH in a solution of excipients and adjusting the pH with HCl/NaOH. The composition of the formulations were:

- 10 hGH 5 mg/ml
 Mannitol 45 mg/ml
 L-histidin 0.62 mg/ml
 Phenol 2,5 mg/ml
 Surfactant x mg/ml
- 15 pH = y (from 6.1 to 6.8)

The appearance of the solutions was examined visually after the solutions had been stored 1 day at 8°C and rotated for 19 hour (20 rpm) at 25°C, respectively:

Surfactant	x (mg/ml)	pH (y)	Apperance after 1 day at 8°C	Appearance after 19 hours rotation
-	0	6.1	Precipitation	Precipitation
-	0	6.3	Precipitation	Many flakes
-	0	6.5	Flakes	Many flakes
-	0	6.8	Flakes	Some flakes
Pluronic L64	0.5	6.8	Clear, few flakes	Many small flakes
Pluronic L64	1	6.8	Clear, few flakes	Clear, some flakes
Pluronic F68	2	6.1	Clear	Clear, some flakes
Pluronic F68	2	6.3	Clear	Clear, few flakes
Pluronic F68	2	6.5	Clear	Clear, few flakes
Pluronic F68	2	6.8	Clear	Clear, some flakes
Lutrol F127	1	6.1	Clear	Clear, some flakes
Lutrol F127	1	6.3	Clear	Clear, some flakes
Lutrol F127	1	6.5	Clear	Clear, few flakes
Lutrol F127	1	6.8	Clear	Not analysed
Tween 20	2	6.1	Slight precipitation	Reasonably clear, some flakes
Tween 20	2	6.3	Clear	Clear, some flakes
Tween 20	2	6.5	Clear, some flakes	Clear, few flakes
Tween 20	2	6.8	Clear	Clear, some flakes

Example 2:Rate of deamidation

- 5 The eight formulations tabulated below were prepared by adding the hGH to a solution containing the excipients. pH was adjusted to 6.1. The preparations were then placed for 28 days at 25°C and for 14 days at 37°C and analysed for formation of deamidated forms of hGH. Rate constants for the deamidation were calculated on basis of the stability data. In the table below the contents of hGH and excipients are
- 10 given in mg/ml and the rate constants $k_{25^{\circ}\text{C}}$ and $k_{37^{\circ}\text{C}}$ are given in days⁻¹

hGH	Phenol	Pluronic F68	Lutrol F127	L-histidin	Di-sodium hydrogen citrate	Mannitol	NaCl	$k_{25^{\circ}\text{C}}$	$k_{37^{\circ}\text{C}}$
5	2.5	2		0.62		45		0.00180	0.00860
6.7	2.5	2			2.2	45		0.00221	0.0127
6.7	2.5	2		0.62			5.8	0.00244	0.0110
6.7	2.5	2			2.2		5.8	0.00263	0.0143
5	2.5		1	0.62		45		0.00178	0.00914
6.7	2.5		1		2.2	45		0.00221	0.0128
6.7	2.5		1	0.62			5.8	0.00236	0.0112
6.7	2.5		1		2.2		5.8	0.00259	0.0139

Example 3:Formation of deamidated forms

- 5 The formulations tabulated below were prepared by adding the hGH to a solution containing the excipients and adjusting the pH. The preparations were then placed for 3 months at 8°C and 25°C and analysed for formation of deamidated forms of hGH.

hGH (mg/ml)	Sur- factant ¹⁾ (mg/ml)	Phenol (mg/ml)	L-histi- din (mg/ml)	Manni- tol (mg/ml)	pH	Content of desamido forms (%)			
						t = 0	3 months at 8°C	12 weeks at 25°C	3 weeks at 37°C
6.25	2 (F68)	2.5	0.62	45	6.3	0.6	2.7	18.1	21.1
6.25	2 (F68)	2.5	0.62	45	6.2	0.5	2.5	16.2	18.7
6.25	2 (F68)	2.5	0.62	45	6.1	0.6	2.2	14.8	17.1
3.33	3 (F68)	3.0	0.68	40	6.1	1.3	3.0	15.5	n.a.
6.67	3 (F68)	3.0	0.68	40	6.1	1.0	3.2	16.6	n.a.
10.0	3 (F68)	3.0	1.1	39	6.1	0.6	3.8	16.7	n.a.
6.25	1 (L127)	2.5	0.62	45	6.1	0.6	2.5	15.4	18.2
6.25	2 (T20)	2.5	0.62	45	6.1	0.6	n.a.	n.a.	16.6

10

- 1): Type of surfactant is given in parantheses:
 F68 = Pluronic F68 = poloxamer 188
 F127 = Lutrol 127 = poloxamer 407
 T20 = Tween 20 = polysorbate 20

Example 4:

24 formulations were prepared from the below formula:

5

hGH 3.33 to 13.1 mg/ml

L-histidin 0.78 mg/ml

Mannitol 22 mg/ml

Sucrose 21 mg/ml

10 Poloxamer 188 1.33 - 5.33 mg/ml

Preservative: Benzylalcohol (0 - 20 mg/ml) or Phenol (0 - 5 mg/ml)

The formulations were prepared by adding the hGH to a solution of the excipients. pH was adjusted to 6.8. The formulations were kept at 25°C for 4 weeks and then the

15 clarity of the solutions were measured as the absorbance at 340 nm. The absorbance at 340 nm indicate the degree of aggregation in the solutions.

hGH (mg/ml)	Poloxamer 188 (mg/ml)	Benzylalcohol (mg/ml)				Phenol (mg/ml)	
		0	15	18	20	2,5	5
3,33	1,33	0,009	0,019	0,045	0,016	0,015	0,020
6,67	2,66	0,046	0,022	0,041	1)	0,025	0,026
10,0	4,0	0,022	0,060	1)	1)	0,034	0,050
13,1	5,33	0,018	0,041	0,042	1)	0,054	0,071

1): dissolution of hGH not possible.

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CLAIMS

1. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising
5
- a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
 - b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at
10 least one acidic amino acid residue,
 - c) and a non-ionic detergent,
- wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is
15 from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.
2. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 comprising
- a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
20
 - b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu,
 - c) and a non-ionic detergent,
- 25 wherein the amount of the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu is from about 0.01 to about 10 mg per mg of GH.
3. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 comprising
30
- a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 5 10mg per mg of GH.

4. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 or 3, comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine or a derivative of histidine,

c) and a non-ionic detergent.

10 5. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 5mg per mg of GH.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 15 1mg per mg of GH.

7. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 0.5mg per mg of GH.

8. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims wherein the detergent is a 20 polysorbate.

9. A formulation according to claim 8 wherein the polysorbate is Tween 20.

10. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 1-7, wherein the detergent is a poloxamer:

11. A formulation according to claim 10 wherein the poloxamer is poloxamer 188 or 25 poloxamer 407.

12. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims, which further comprises one or more isotonicity giving agents.

13. A formulation according to claim 12 wherein the isotonicity giving agents are sugar alcohols and/or salts.

14. A formulation according to claim 12, wherein the isotonicity giving agents are selected from mannitol, sorbitol, and sodium chloride.

15. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims, which is an aqueous formulation.

16. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims, which further comprises one or more preserving agents.

35 17. A formulation according to claim 16 wherein the preserving agent is phenol or benzyl alcohol.

18. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the pH value is adjusted to lie between 6.0 and 8.8.

19. A stable pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone.



20. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising
- a) a growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
 - b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH.

21. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 20 comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu,

c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH.

22. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 20 comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH.

23. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 20 or 22 comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine,

c) and a non-ionic detergent.

24. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 23, wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.05 to about 5mg per mg of GH.

25. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 24, wherein the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH.

26. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 25, wherein the detergent is a polysorbate.

27. A formulation according to claim 26 wherein the polysorbate is Tween 20.

28. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 25, wherein the detergent is a poloxamer.

29. A formulation according to claim 28 wherein the poloxamer is poloxamer 188 or poloxamer 407.

30. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 29, which further comprises one or more isotonicity giving agents.

31. A formulation according to claim 30 wherein the isotonicity giving agents are sugar alcohols and/or salts.

32. A formulation according to claim 30, wherein the isotonicity giving agents are selected from mannitol, sorbitol, and sodium chloride.



33. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 32, which is an aqueous formulation.

34. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 33, which further comprises one or more preserving agents.

5 35. A formulation according to claim 34 wherein the preserving agent is phenol or benzyl alcohol.

36. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 35, wherein the pH value is adjusted to lie between 6.0 and 8.8.

10 37. A stable pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 20 to 36, wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone.

38. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

15 c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of peptide or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH.

20 39. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 38 comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu,

c) and a non-ionic detergent,

25 wherein the amount Asp, Ile, Val or Leu is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH.

40. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 38 comprising

a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

30 c) and a non-ionic detergent,

wherein the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH, and the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH.

41. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 38 or 40, comprising

35 a) growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine,

c) and a non-ionic detergent.

42. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 41, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 5mg per mg of hGH.



43 A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 42, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 1mg per mg of hGH.

44. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 43, wherein
5 the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 0.5mg per mg of hGH.

45. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 44, wherein the detergent is a polysorbate.

46. A formulation according to claim 45 wherein the polysorbate is Tween 20.

10 47. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 44, wherein the detergent is a poloxamer.

48. A formulation according to claim 47 wherein the poloxamer is poloxamer 188 or poloxamer 407.

49. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 48, which further comprises
15 one or more isotonicity giving agents.

50. A formulation according to claim 49 wherein the isotonicity giving agents are sugar alcohols and/or salts.

51. A formulation according to claim 49, wherein the isotonicity giving agents are selected from mannitol, sorbitol, and sodium chloride.

20 52. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 51, which is an aqueous formulation.

53. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 52, which further comprising one or more preserving agents.

25 54. A formulation according to claim 53 wherein the preserving agent is phenol or benzyl alcohol.

55. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 54, wherein the pH value is adjusted to lie between 6.0 and 8.8.

56. A stable pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 38 to 55 wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone.

30 57. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising
a) a growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,

35 c) and a poloxamer.

58. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 57 comprising

a) a growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,

b) an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu,

c) and a poloxamer.

59. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 57 comprising



- a) a growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
- b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,
- c) and a poloxamer.

- 5 60. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 57 or 59 comprising
- a) a growth hormone (GH) or a derivative of growth hormone,
 - b) histidine, or a derivative of histidine,
 - c) and a poloxamer.

61. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 60, wherein
10 the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH.

62. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 61, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 5mg per mg of GH.

- 15 63. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 62, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to about 1mg per mg of GH.

64. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 63, wherein the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine is from about 0.05 to
20 about 0.5mg per mg of GH.

65. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 64, wherein the poloxamer is poloxamer 188 or poloxamer 407.

66. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 65, wherein the amount of poloxamer is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of GH.

- 25 67. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 66, wherein the amount of poloxamer is from about 0.05 to about 5mg per mg of GH.

68. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 67, wherein the amount of poloxamer is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH.

69. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 68, which further comprises
30 one or more isotonicity giving agents.

70. A formulation according to claim 69 wherein the isotonicity giving agents are sugar alcohols and/or salts.

71. A formulation according to claim 69, wherein the isotonicity giving agents are selected from mannitol, sorbitol, and sodium chloride.

- 35 72. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 71, which is an aqueous formulation.

73. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 72, which further comprises one or more preserving agents.

74. A formulation according to claim 73 wherein the preserving agent is phenol or benzyl alcohol.



75. A formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 73, wherein the pH value is adjusted to a value between 6.0 and 8.8.

76. A stable pharmaceutical formulation according to any of the preceding claims 57 to 75, wherein the growth hormone is human growth hormone.

5 77. A stable pharmaceutical formulation, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

78. A method for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one
10 acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or derivative of histidine range from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg GH in a solution comprising the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino
15 acid residue in deionised water, and a non-ionic detergent, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.



79. A method according to claim 78 wherein the non-ionic detergent is a polysorbate or a poloxamer.

20 80. A method according to claim 78 or claim 79 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, range from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg GH in a solution comprising the selected amino acid in deionised
25 water, and the non-ionic detergent, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.



81. A method according to claim 78 or claim 79 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or a derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,
30 and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine range from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg GH in a solution comprising histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and the non-ionic detergent, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally
35 containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.



82. A method for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or

derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu, His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and such an amount of a non-ionic detergent, that the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about 10mg per mg of
 5 GH, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

83. A method according to claim 82 wherein the non-ionic detergent is a polysorbate or a poloxamer.

84. A method according to claim 82 or claim 83 for preparing a formulation comprising a
 10 growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu in deionised water, and such an amount of the non-ionic detergent, that the amount of non-ionic
 15 optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

85. A method according to claim 82 or claim 83 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue,
 20 and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and such an amount of the non-ionic detergent, that the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.01 to about
 25 10mg per mg of GH, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

86. A method for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth
 30 hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of peptide, or Asp, Ile, Val, Leu, or His, or derivative of histidine range from about 0.05 to about 0.5mg per mg GH in a solution comprising the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and such an amount of a non-ionic detergent, that the amount of
 35 non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

87. A method according to claim 86 wherein the non-ionic detergent is a polysorbate or a poloxamer.



88. A method according to claim 86 or claim 87 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu range from about 0.05 to about 0.5mg per mg GH in a solution comprising the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu in deionised water, and such an amount of the non-ionic detergent, that the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

89. A method according to claim 86 or claim 87 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving such an amount of growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, that makes the amount of peptide or histidine or derivative of histidine range from about 0.05 to about 0.5mg per mg GH in a solution comprising histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and such an amount of the non-ionic detergent, that the amount of non-ionic detergent is from about 0.1 to about 2mg per mg of GH, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.8.

90. A method for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising the amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val, Leu or His, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and a poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.

91. A method according to claim 90, wherein the poloxamer is poloxamer 188 or 407.

92. A method according to claim 90 or claim 91 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu, and a non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising an amino acid selected from the group of Asp, Ile, Val or Leu in deionised water, and the poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.

93. A method according to claim 90 for preparing a formulation comprising a growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, and histidine, or a derivative of histidine, or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue, and a



non-ionic detergent, comprising dissolving growth hormone, or derivative of growth hormone, in a solution comprising histidine, or a derivative of histidine or a peptide comprising at least one basic amino acid residue and at least one acidic amino acid residue in deionised water, and the poloxamer, optionally containing a preservative, and optionally containing an agent for adjusting the tonicity, and optionally adjusting the pH to a value from about 6.0 to about 8.

94. A method for preparing a formulation, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

95. A formulation prepared by the method of any one of claims 78 to 94.

96. A method of treating a disorder in a patient affectable by growth hormone comprising treating the patient with an amount of the pharmaceutical formulation of any of claims 1 to 77 or 95 effective to treat said disorder.

97. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 77 or 95 when used to treat a disorder affectable by growth hormone.

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