



US 20110305753A1

(19) **United States**

(12) **Patent Application Publication**
Simon

(10) **Pub. No.: US 2011/0305753 A1**

(43) **Pub. Date: Dec. 15, 2011**

(54) **TREATMENT OF CELIAC DISEASE WITH IGA**

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(21) Appl. No.: **13/214,952**

(22) Filed: **Aug. 22, 2011**

Publication Classification

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A61K 39/395 (2006.01)

A61P 1/00 (2006.01)

A61P 29/00 (2006.01)

A61P 1/04 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **424/451**; 424/130.1; 424/141.1; 424/133.1; 424/178.1

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 12/138,748, filed on Jun. 13, 2008, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/851,606, filed on Sep. 7, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,794,721, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/839,781, filed on Aug. 16, 2007, now Pat. No. 7,597,891, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 11/610,154, filed on Dec. 13, 2006, now abandoned.

(57)

ABSTRACT

A process is provided for inhibiting symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in a subject that includes the oral administration to the subject suffering from food allergy or food intolerance an IgA or an IgM. When administered in a therapeutic quantity based on the subject characteristics and the type of IgA or IgM, symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in that subject are inhibited. Even non-secretory forms of IgA and IgM are effective when administered orally.

TREATMENT OF CELIAC DISEASE WITH IGA

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 12/138,758 filed Jun. 13, 2008, currently allowed; which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/851,606 filed Sep. 7, 2007, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,794,721; which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/839,781 filed Aug. 16, 2007, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,597,891; which in turn is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/610,154 filed Dec. 13, 2006. The contents of these applications are hereby incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] This invention relates in general to processes for the treatment of food intolerance, and food allergy with orally administered immunoglobulin A (IgA), including secretory IgA, compositions administered in the form of pharmaceutical compositions.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] Food intolerance includes, but is not limited to, food protein enteropathy and food protein enterocolitis/proctitis (G. Vighi, et al 2008, Caubet et al 2011). Irritable bowel syndrome is sometimes caused by food intolerance. The symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome can vary significantly from person to person. A partial listing of irritable bowel syndrome symptoms includes:

[0004] Abdominal pain

[0005] Abdominal distention, bloating, gas, indigestion

[0006] Constipation

[0007] Diarrhea, chronic or occasional

[0008] Food allergy is most often attributed to IgE antibodies with antigenic specificity for specific foods (Granato and Piguat 1986; Wang et al 2010). Foods normally induce local intestinal mucosal production of IgA and IgM (Shimoda et al 1999). Food intolerance and allergy are associated with deficiency in IgA (Walker et al 1999, Harrison et al 1976). It has been hypothesized that food antigen IgA may competitively bind to food antigens, and thereby protect the subject from reacting to that food with an allergic response (Possin et al 2010). Food antigen specific IgA is found in the blood plasma (Vojdani 2009, Trajkovski 2008). Food allergy is associated with a relative decrease in food antigen specific IgA in the intestines (Frossard C P et al 2004). Application of antigen-specific IgA to the respiratory mucosa in mice prevents increased airway hyperreactivity in allergic asthma (Schwarze et al 1998; U.S. Pat. No. 5,670,626). Ulcerative colitis is a chronic inflammation of the large intestine. There is decreased mucosal IgA in the intestinal mucosa of patients with ulcerative colitis (Cicalese et al 1995). Food antigen challenge in the presence of Staphylococcal enterotoxin B has been shown to induce ulcerative colitis in a mouse disease model (Yang 2005). Non-IgE mediated food intolerance is also known to exist and be most common in infants and young children due to ingested dietary proteins such as those found in cow's milk and soy protein creating profound discomfort. While non-IgE mediated food allergy is rarely life threatening, it can cause significant morbidity in rapidly growing infants and young children. (Jyonouchi, 2008).

[0009] The prior art failed to explore orally administered IgAs or IgMs as a potential medicament for the treatment of food allergy and food intolerance.

[0010] Thus, there exists a need for an IgA therapeutic or an IgM therapeutic for the treatment of food allergy and food intolerance. There also exists a need to provide such a therapeutic in a dosing form well suited for treating an affected subject.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0011] A process is provided for inhibiting symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in a subject that includes the oral administration of an IgA or an IgM. to the subject suffering from food allergy or food intolerance an IgA or an IgM. When administered in a therapeutic quantity based on the subject characteristics and the type of IgA or IgM, symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in that subject are inhibited. Even non-secretory forms of IgA and IgM are effective when administered orally. The administered immunoglobulin is readily formed from monoclonal or polyclonal sources. Recombinant forms of the immunoglobulins are also operative herein. When the immunoglobulin is IgA, the IgA is readily administered in a monomeric, dimeric, or polymeric form that optionally includes secretory component. When the immunoglobulin is IgM, the IgM is readily administered in a monomeric, or pentameric form that optionally includes secretory component.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0012] The present invention has utility as a treatment for food intolerance, irritable bowel syndrome and ulcerative colitis as well as food allergy. The process includes treatment with monoclonal- or polyclonal-IgAs that are monomeric, dimeric or polymeric; and/or monoclonal- or polyclonal- IgM that are monomeric, pentameric and/or secretory. While monomeric IgA is susceptible to gastrointestinal degradation it has been surprisingly found that monomeric immunoglobulin maintains some antibody function after oral administration (Kelly C et al 1997) Because of its resistance to degradation in the gastrointestinal tract, secretory IgA and secretory IgM are generally effective at lower doses. Immunoglobulins have minimal side effects because they are naturally present in the gastrointestinal tract. Dimeric IgA and pentameric IgM according to the present invention may be bound to secretory component in order to mimic secretory IgA and secretory IgM endogenous to the subject. Alternatively they may be administered without bound secretory component.

[0013] As used herein, "food allergy" is defined to include IgE and non-IgE mediated allergy and intolerance.

[0014] As used herein, a "subject" is defined as a humans.

[0015] As the present invention uses an immunoglobulin rather than a metabolic or immunological inhibitor, an effective treatment is provided which does not disturb the body's metabolism.

[0016] Allergens that induce food allergies or food intolerance that are mitigated by the present invention illustratively include those allergens found in milk; peanuts; tree nuts, such as cashews and hazelnuts; cauliflorates such as cauliflower and broccoli, gluten containing grain crops such as wheat, barley and rye; cheese; eggs; shellfish such as mollusks and crustaceans; fish; and fruits such as strawberries, bananas, and tomatoes.

[0017] The following description of the preferred embodiment(s) is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

[0018] IgAs and IgMs in various forms including monoclonal- or polyclonal-IgAs that are monomeric, dimeric or

polymeric; and monoclonal- or polyclonal-IgMs that are secretory or pentameric are all known to the art, as evidenced for example, by the references incorporated herein.

[0019] In one embodiment, the invention provides a process for medical treatment of humans involving the oral administration of secretory IgA which can be derived from a number of sources. One such source for the IgA is pooled human plasma following Cohn cold ethanol fractionation to produce fraction III precipitate as performed by those of skill in the art of protein separation. IgA byproduct is further purified by adsorption onto an ion exchange medium in neutral or slightly acidic conditions as performed by those of skill in the art of protein purification. Another source for the IgA is recombinant IgA produced from a hybridoma or a transgenic plant.

[0020] A more detailed description of isolation of an IgA component as a byproduct from pooled human plasma or hyperimmune pooled human plasma is as follows. Ethanol fractionation of pooled human plasma is a well-known process to prepare immunoglobulin G. Pooled human plasma is first obtained from licensed plasmapheresis centers in the United States and tested for various pathogens including the HIV virus. The first manufacturing step of most commercial immunoglobulin G preparations involves a modified cold ethanol fractionation according to Cohn to produce Cohn fraction II. In the fractionation process, many infectious viruses are eliminated from the pooled human plasma. Following fractionation, the Cohn fraction II is subjected to adsorption onto an ion exchange medium. This step may selectively reduce the IgA concentration to less than 0.1%. Such a step is important for producing immunoglobulin G for intravenous infusion into humans. This is because some individuals undergo an anaphylactic-like reaction if treated with intravenous IgG that contains IgA as an impurity.

[0021] The modified cold ethanol fractionation process according to Cohn is a series of fractionations using various levels of ethanol, pH, and temperature to produce a fraction II which is further treated to produce immunoglobulins as described above. In the fractionation method, pooled human plasma is first treated to produce a cryoprecipitate and cryosupernatant. The cryo-supernatant is subjected to a first ethanol fractionation to yield a supernatant I. Supernatant I is subjected to a second ethanol fractionation to yield fraction II+III. Fraction II+III is subjected to a third ethanol fractionation procedure to yield a supernatant III and Fraction III precipitate.

[0022] The fraction III precipitate enriched in IgA is generally discarded as an unwanted byproduct. According to the invention, this unwanted IgA following ion exchange adsorption purification is further treated by incubation with immobilized hydrolases to inactivate viruses and vasoactive substances. Such treatment has been proven to eliminate many viruses tested including HIV, Sindbis, and vaccinia. Other antiviral treatments, as known to those skilled in the art, are used in combination and consist of solvent detergent processes, nanofiltration and/or heat inactivation. Usually three antiviral steps are implemented. Following incubation to remove viruses, the concentration of the active material is adjusted with sterile saline or buffered solutions to ensure a constant amount of active material per milliliter of reconstituted product. Finally, the solution with a constant amount of reconstituted product is sterilized by filtration before use.

[0023] The ethanol fractionation process according to Cohn is well known in the art and is described in Cohn et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1946; 68:459-475, Oncley et al., *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1949; 71:541-550, and in most detail in pages 576-602, Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technol-

ogy, Vol. 3, second edition (1963). Alternatively, ion exchange chromatography may be used to obtain the dimeric and polymeric IgA byproduct during the manufacture of intravenous immunoglobulin. From 4% to 22% of plasma IgA is dimeric and polymeric IgA (Delacroix et al. 1981; Delacroix et al. 1983). The resulting dimeric and polymeric IgA-J chains are purified.

[0024] In a preferred embodiment, the compositions of the invention contain, in addition to the IgA component, recombinant secretory component. Human secretory component can be produced by recombinant techniques as described in Crottet et al., *Biochem. J.* 1999; 341:299-306. The resulting dimeric IgA is further coupled to recombinant secretory component. In a preferred embodiment, the coupling is accomplished by forming disulfide bonds under mildly oxidizing conditions. (Jones 1998) Dimeric IgA containing both J chain and secretory component is again purified by ion-exchange and size exclusion chromatography and/or ultrafiltration as described in Lullau et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 1996; 271:16300-16309, Corthesy, *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* 1997; 25:471-475, and Crottet et al., *Biochem. J.* 1999; 341:299-306, as performed by those of skill in the art of protein purification. Purified dimeric and polymeric IgA containing secretory component is optionally stabilized for example by the addition of human serum albumin to a final concentration of 5%. The presence of the human J chains and secretory component in the compositions of the invention leads to doses of immunoglobulin A which are more physiologically effective than compositions without such components.

[0025] Dimeric IgA contains two IgA monomers plus J chain.

[0026] The secretory IgA antibodies may be administered alone as a liquid or solid, preferably in a solid powder form and preferably in admixture with a carrier to form a pharmaceutical composition such as a tablet, capsule or suppository.

[0027] Since preferred methods of administration are oral with solid oral dosage forms such as tablets and capsules being especially preferred, or enteric installation. These are prepared according to conventional methods known those skilled in the art. The secretory IgA antibodies may also be combined with other pharmaceutically acceptable carriers such as various liquids, proteins or oils which may also provide additional nutritional and/or pharmaceutical benefits. Remington Science and Practice of Pharmacy, 20th ed. (2000).

[0028] These compositions optionally contain adjuvants such as preserving, wetting, emulsifying, and dispensing agents. Prevention of the action of microorganisms can be ensured by various antibacterial and antifungal agents, for example, parabens, chlorobutanol, phenol, sorbic acid, and the like. It may also be desirable to include isotonic agents, for example, sugars, sodium chloride, and the like. Prolonged residence in the intestinal lumen of the IgA or IgM can be brought about by the use of agents delaying absorption, for example, aluminum monostearate and gelatin.

[0029] Solid dosage forms for oral administration include capsules, tablets, pills, powders, and granules. In such solid dosage forms, the active compound is admixed with at least one inert customary excipient (or carrier) such as sodium citrate or dicalcium phosphate or (a) fillers or extenders, as for example, starches, lactose, sucrose, glucose, mannitol, and silicic acid, (b) binders, as for example, carboxymethylcellulose, alginates, gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, and acacia, (c) humectants, as for example, glycerol, (d) disintegrating agents, as for example, agar-agar, calcium carbonate, potato or tapioca starch, alginic acid, certain complex silicates, and sodium carbonate, (e) solution retarders, as for

example, paraffin, (f) absorption accelerators, as for example, quaternary ammonium compounds, (g) wetting agents, as for example, cetyl alcohol, and glycerol monostearate, (h) adsorbents, as for example, kaolin and bentonite, and (i) lubricants, as for example, talc, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, solid polyethylene glycols, sodium lauryl sulfate, or mixtures thereof. In the case of capsules, tablets, and pills, the dosage forms may also comprise buffering agents.

[0030] Solid compositions of a similar type may also be employed as fillers in soft and hard-filled gelatin capsules using such excipients as lactose or milk sugar as well as high molecular weight polyethyleneglycols, and the like.

[0031] Solid dosage forms such as tablets, dragees, capsules, pills, and granules can be prepared with coatings and shells, such as enteric coatings and others well known in the art; as detailed, for example in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,017,647; 4,385,078; 4,518,433; and 4,556,552.

[0032] They may contain opacifying agents, and can also be of such composition that they release the active compound or compounds in a certain part of the intestinal tract in a delayed manner. Examples of embedding compositions which can be used are polymeric substances and waxes. The active compounds can also be in microencapsulated form, if appropriate, with one or more of the above-mentioned excipients.

[0033] Liquid dosage forms for oral administration include pharmaceutically acceptable emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, and elixirs. In addition to the active compounds, the liquid dosage forms may contain inert diluents commonly used in the art, such as water or other solvents, solubilizing agents and emulsifiers, as for example, ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl carbonate, ethyl acetate, benzyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, propyleneglycol, 1,3-butyleneglycol, dimethylformamide, oils, in particular, cottonseed oil, groundnut oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, castor oil and sesame oil, glycerol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, polyethyleneglycols and fatty acid esters of sorbitan or mixtures of these substances, and the like.

[0034] Besides such inert diluents, the composition can also include adjuvants, such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, sweetening, flavoring, and perfuming agents.

[0035] Suspensions, in addition to the active compounds, may contain suspending agents, as for example, ethoxylated isostearyl alcohols, polyoxyethylene sorbitol and sorbitan esters, microcrystalline cellulose, aluminum metahydroxide, bentonite, agar-agar and tragacanth, or mixtures of these substances, and the like.

[0036] Since the effect of the IgA and IgM antibodies is dependent on their reaching the small intestine, preferred tablets or capsules are enteric coated. Alternatively, the active IgA and IgM antibodies can themselves be microencapsulated prior to formulation. Preparation of microcapsules of IgA and IgM antibody as well as preparation of enteric coated tablets or capsules can be achieved by conventional methods as detailed above.

[0037] It is appreciated that the therapeutic amount of IgA or IgM depends on the form thereof, with forms subject to gastrointestinal degradation requiring larger doses. Typically amounts of IgA or IgM from about 0.005 mg to 50 grams per day are used and preferably, 1 mg to 40 grams per day. Generally, secretory IgA or IgM are each independently effective as a treatment when provided to the patient at about 1 gram per day. Forms of IgA or IgM that are prone to gastrointestinal degradation are typically effective in doses increased by at least 80% relative to secretory forms. For example, about 5 grams of secretory IgA could be given to a

subject per day in a single dose or in divided doses 3 to 4 times per day. Preferably, multiple doses are administered with meals likely containing food allergens. It is appreciated that a physician can readily adjust the doses of the IgA or IgM to be administered based on the subject's response to treatment. Many factors are considered in dose adjustments. Dosages of secretory IgA or secretory IgM for adult humans envisioned by the present invention and considered to be therapeutically effective will range from between about 5 mg to 50 g. However, it is to be understood that doses can readily be adjusted to provide appropriate amounts of the IgA antibody to any subject, including children.

[0038] The present invention also provides a process for medical treatment of humans involving the oral administration of monomeric IgA which can be derived from pooled human plasma or monoclonal IgA which can be derived by hybridoma technology (B Cell Design, Limoge, France).

[0039] The present invention also provides a process for medical treatment of humans involving the oral administration of secretory IgM which can be derived from pooled human plasma following Cohn cold ethanol fractionation to produce fraction III precipitate as performed by those of skill in the art of protein separation as described above. IgM byproduct is further purified by adsorption onto an ion exchange medium in neutral or slightly acidic conditions as performed by those of skill in the art of protein purification. Another source for the IgM is recombinant IgM produced from a hybridoma.

[0040] The invention is further described by reference to the following detailed examples, wherein the processologies are as described below. These examples are not meant to limit the scope of the invention that has been set forth in the foregoing description. Variations within the concepts of the invention are apparent to those skilled in the art.

EXAMPLE 1

[0041] Monoclonal monomeric IgA is obtained from hybridoma technology. The monoclonal IgA is stabilized by the addition of human serum albumin to a final concentration of 5% and encapsulated. The final solution is adjusted to a therapeutic dose of 5 mg IgA daily. The IgA is administered to a person suffering with irritable bowel disease. One day after initiation of treatment, the irritable bowel syndrome sufferer eats the food to which he/she is sensitive without inducing any symptoms of intestinal dysfunction.

EXAMPLE 2

[0042] The monoclonal IgA per Example 1 is administered to a person suffering with food allergy. While receiving treatment the food allergy sufferer eats the allergenic food without inducing any symptoms of an allergic reaction.

EXAMPLE 3

[0043] The process of Example 2 is repeated with the IgA administered with an enteric, encapsulating coating and a lower daily dose of 2 mg to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 4

[0044] The process of Examples 2 is repeated with monoclonal IgA replaced with polyclonal IgA that is obtained from pooled human plasma following Cohn cold ethanol fractionation to produce fraction III precipitate. IgA is further purified by adsorption onto an ion exchange medium in neutral or slightly acidic conditions. IgA-J chain dimers and polymers are purified. IgA-J chain dimers and polymers are then further

coupled to recombinant secretory component again by disulfide bonding in mildly oxidizing conditions, preferably at a molar ratio of secretory component to IgA-J chain dimers and polymers of 1:1. IgA containing both J chain and secretory component is again purified. Purified IgA containing J chain and secretory component is stabilized by the addition of human serum albumin to a final concentration of 5%. The final solution of secretory IgA is adjusted to a therapeutic dose of 5 mg IgA and is administered to a person suffering with food allergy to eggs. One month after initiation of treatment the food allergy sufferer eats 50 grams of egg without inducing any symptoms of an allergic reaction.

EXAMPLE 5

[0045] The process of Example 4 is repeated with a person suffering from a food intolerance to cauliflorates to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 6

[0046] The process of Example 4 is repeated with a person suffering from ulcerative collitis to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 7

[0047] The process of Example 4 is repeated with a person suffering from a food allergy to strawberries to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 8

[0048] The process of Example 4 is repeated with a person suffering from irritable bowel syndrome to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 9

[0049] The process of Example 4 is repeated with a person suffering from a peanut allergy to achieve a similar result.

EXAMPLE 10

[0050] The process of Example 4 is repeated with monoclonal IgA replaced with polyclonal IgM that is obtained from pooled human plasma following Cohn cold ethanol fractionation to produce fraction III precipitate. IgM is further purified by adsorption onto an ion exchange medium in neutral or slightly acidic conditions. IgM-J chain pentamers are purified. IgM-J chain pentamers are then further coupled to recombinant secretory component again by disulfide bonding in mildly oxidizing conditions, preferably at a molar ratio of secretory component to IgM-J chain pentamers of 1:1. IgA containing both J chain and secretory component is again purified. Purified IgM containing J chain and secretory component is stabilized by the addition of human serum albumin to a final concentration of 5%. The final solution is adjusted to a therapeutic dose of 10 mg IgM. The IgM is administered to a person suffering with food allergy. One month after to initiation of treatment the food allergy sufferer eats the allergenic food without inducing any allergic symptoms.

EXAMPLES 10-14.

[0051] Examples 5-9 are repeated with monoclonal IgA replaced with polyclonal IgM per Example 10 to achieve like results.

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[0080] Patent applications and publications mentioned in the specification are indicative of the levels of those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains. These applications and publications are incorporated herein by reference to the same extent as if each individual application or publication was specifically and individually incorporated herein by reference.

[0081] The foregoing description is illustrative of particular embodiments of the invention, but is not meant to be a limitation upon the practice thereof. The following claims, including all equivalents thereof, are intended to define the scope of the invention.

1. A process for inhibiting symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in a subject comprising:
 - administering orally to the subject suffering from food allergy or food intolerance an IgA or an IgM; and
 - allowing sufficient time for said IgA or IgM to inhibit symptoms of food allergy or food intolerance in that subject.
2. The process of claim 1, wherein said IgA is administered and is polyclonal or monoclonal.
3. The process of claim 2, wherein said IgA is monomeric.
4. The process of claim 2, wherein said IgA is dimeric.
5. The process of claim 2, wherein said IgA is polymeric.
6. The process of claim 2, wherein said IgA is recombinant.
7. The process of claim 4 further comprising IgA bound to secretory component.
8. The process of claim 1, wherein said IgM is administered and is polyclonal or monoclonal.
9. The process of claim 8, wherein said IgM is pentameric.
10. The process of claim 8, wherein said IgM is recombinant.
11. The process of claim 9 wherein said IgM is bound to secretory component.
12. The process of claim 1 wherein said IgA or said IgM is administered as a tablet or a capsule.
13. The process of claim 1, further comprising microencapsulating said IgA or said IgM prior to said administering.
14. The process of claim 1 wherein food intolerance causes or exacerbates colitis, including ulcerative colitis.
15. The process of claim 1 wherein food intolerance causes or exacerbates irritable bowel syndrome.
16. The process of claim 1 wherein an allergen that induces the food allergy or the food intolerance is present in food selected from the group consisting of: milk, peanut, a tree nuts, a cauliforate, a gluten containing grain crop, cheese, egg, shellfish, fish; and fruits.

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