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Helsinn Therapeutics (U.S.) Inc., and
Eisai Inc.*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

HELSINN HEALTHCARE S.A., HELSINN
ADVANCED SYNTHESIS S.A., HELSINN
BIREX PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.,
HELSINN THERAPEUTICS (U.S.), INC., and
EISAI INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

TEVA PHARMACEUTICALS USA, INC.
and TEVA PHARMACEUTICAL
INDUSTRIES, LTD.,

Defendants.

**Civil Action No. 14-4274 (SRC)(CLW)
(Consolidated)**

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR
PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

(Filed Electronically)

[REDACTED PUBLIC FILING]

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs Helsinn Healthcare S.A. (“Helsinn S.A.”), Helsinn Advanced Synthesis S.A. (“Helsinn Advanced”), Helsinn Birex Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (“Helsinn Birex”), Helsinn Therapeutics (U.S.), Inc. (“Helsinn U.S.”), and Eisai Inc. (“Eisai”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) for

their First Amended Complaint against Defendants Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. (“Teva USA”), and Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd. (“Teva Ltd.”) (collectively, “Teva” or “Defendants”), hereby allege as follows:

THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Helsinn S.A. is a Swiss corporation having its principal place of business at Via Pian Scairolo, 9, CH-6912 Lugano-Pazzallo, Switzerland.

2. Plaintiff Helsinn Advanced is a Swiss corporation having its principal place of business at Via Industria, 24, CH-6710, Biasca, Switzerland.

3. Plaintiff Helsinn Birex is an Irish corporation having its principal place of business at Damastown, Mulhuddart, Dublin 15.

4. Plaintiff Helsinn U.S. is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having a principal place of business at 170 Wood Avenue South, 5th Floor, Iselin, New Jersey, 08830.

5. Plaintiff Eisai is a company organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having a principal place of business at 100 Tice Blvd., Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, 07677.

6. Upon information and belief, Defendant Teva USA is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having a place of business at 1090 Horsham Road, P.O. Box 1090, North Wales, PA 19454. Teva USA is a wholly owned subsidiary and agent of Defendant Teva Ltd. Upon information and belief, Teva USA has facilities in New Jersey, is registered to do business in New Jersey, and does business in this Judicial District. Teva USA has previously consented to personal jurisdiction in this Court, including in the related action, *Helsinn Healthcare S.A., et al. v. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Ltd., et al.*, No. 11-3962 (MLC)(DEA) (Consolidated).

7. Upon information and belief, Defendant Teva Ltd. is an Israeli corporation having a place of business at 5 Basel Street, Petah Tikva 49131, Israel. Upon information and belief, Teva Ltd., itself and through its wholly owned subsidiary and agent Defendant Teva USA, manufactures generic drugs for sale and use throughout the United States, including in this Judicial District. Teva Ltd. has previously consented to personal jurisdiction in this Court, including in the related action, *Helsinn Healthcare S.A., et al. v. Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, Ltd., et al.*, No. 11-3962 (MLC)(DEA) (Consolidated).

NATURE OF THE ACTION

8. This is a civil action concerning the infringement of United States Patent No. 8,729,094 ("the '094 patent"). This action arises under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 100 *et seq.*, and the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

9. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

10. This Court may declare the rights and other legal relations of the parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02 because this case is an actual controversy within the Court's jurisdiction.

11. Venue is proper in this Court as to each Defendant pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c), and/or (d) and 1400(b).

12. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each of the Defendants by virtue of the fact that, *inter alia*, each Defendant has committed, aided, abetted, contributed to, and/or participated in the commission of a tortious act of patent infringement that has led to foreseeable harm and injury to Plaintiffs. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each of the Defendants

for the additional reasons set forth above and below, and for other reasons that will be presented to the Court if such jurisdiction is challenged.

13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Teva USA.

14. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Teva Ltd.

THE PATENT

15. On May 20, 2014, the '094 patent, titled, "Liquid Pharmaceutical Formulations of Palonosetron," was duly and legally issued to Helsinn S.A. as an assignee, and as of May 1, 2017, co-ownership rights thereto have been granted to each of Helsinn Advanced, Helsinn Birex, and Helsinn U.S., as well as certain exclusive license rights to Eisai. A copy of the '094 patent is attached as Exhibit A.

16. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 355(b)(1), the '094 patent has been listed in the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") publication titled, "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations" (also known as the "Orange Book") as covering Helsinn's Aloxi[®] brand palonosetron hydrochloride intravenous solutions.

ACTS GIVING RISE TO THIS ACTION

INFRINGEMENT OF THE '094 PATENT BY TEVA

17. Plaintiffs reallege paragraphs 1-16 as if fully set forth herein.

18. Defendant Teva submitted ANDA No. 090713 to the FDA under § 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. § 355(j)). ANDA No. 090713 sought the FDA approval necessary to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, and/or importation of generic 0.25 mg / 5 mL and 0.075 mg / 1.5 mL palonosetron hydrochloride intravenous solutions prior to the expiration of the '094 patent. ANDA No. 090713 specifically sought FDA approval to market generic versions of Helsinn S.A.'s Aloxi[®] brand 0.25 mg / 5 mL ("Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product") and 0.075 mg / 1.5 mL palonosetron hydrochloride

intravenous solutions (collectively, “Teva’s ANDA Products”) prior to the expiration of the ’094 patent.

19. ANDA No. 090713 includes a certification under § 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act that the claims of the ’094 patent are invalid. On August 29, 2014, Defendants notified Plaintiffs of their certification and provided a detailed statement of the alleged basis for the certification, but did not allege noninfringement of any claim of the ’094 patent, separate and apart from their assertions that those claims are allegedly invalid. Accordingly, Defendants have known of the ’094 patent since at least August 29, 2014.

20. ANDA No. 090713 received final FDA approval on March 23, 2018 and on that same day, Teva began to engage in the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, sale, and/or importation of Teva’s 0.25 mg ANDA Product.

21. In violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, Teva has infringed and is currently infringing at least claim 4 of the ’094 patent directly and/or indirectly through third parties, by making, using, offering for sale, selling, and/or importing into the United States without authority Teva’s 0.25 mg ANDA Product.

22. Teva’s submission to the FDA of ANDA No. 090713 and the § 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) certification constitutes infringement of the ’094 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(e)(2)(A).

23. Teva’s 0.25 mg ANDA Product [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] claim 4 of the ’094 patent, which recites:

Claim 4 (rewritten as an independent claim). A method for reducing the likelihood of delayed cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, comprising intravenously administering to a human in need thereof a pharmaceutical single-use, unit-dose formulation comprising a 5 mL sterile aqueous isotonic solution buffered at a pH of about 5.0 ± 0.5 , said solution comprising:

about 0.05 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride based on the weight of its free base;
about 41.5 mg/mL mannitol;
about 0.5 mg/mL EDTA; and
a citrate buffer,
wherein said formulation is stable at 24 months when stored at room temperature, and
wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.

[REDACTED]

24. Upon information and belief, Teva has actively and knowingly aided and abetted the infringement of claim 4 by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

25. Upon information and belief, claim 4 of the '094 patent has been and will continue to be directly infringed by healthcare professionals (*e.g.*, physicians and nurses) prescribing and/or administering Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product to cancer chemotherapy patients in the United States before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.

26. Upon information and belief, Teva has and continues to induce infringement of the '094 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b) by making, using, offering to sell, importing, and/or selling Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product in the United States. Upon information and belief, Teva has and continues to intentionally encourage acts of direct infringement with knowledge of the '094 patent and knowledge that its acts are encouraging infringement.

27. Upon information and belief, Teva has and continues to contributorily infringe the '094 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c) by making, using, offering to sell, selling, and/or importing Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product in the United States. Upon information and belief, Teva has and continues to have knowledge that Teva's ANDA Products are indicated for a use that infringes the '094 patent and that there is no substantial non-infringing use for Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product.

28. Teva Ltd. and Teva USA are jointly and severally liable for any infringement of the '094 patent. This is because, upon information and belief, Teva Ltd. and Teva USA actively and knowingly caused to be submitted, assisted with, participated in, contributed to, and/or directed the submission of the ANDA No. 090713 and the § 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) allegations to the FDA.

29. Teva's active and knowing participation in, contribution to, aiding, abetting, and/or inducement of the submission to the FDA of ANDA No. 090713 and the § 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) allegations constitutes infringement of the '094 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(e)(2)(A).

30. Teva's active and knowing inducement of the commercial manufacture, use, offer for sale, or sale of Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product within the United States,

importation of Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product into the United States, and/or contribution to such conduct constitute infringement of the '094 patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271 (b) and/or (c).

31. Upon information and belief, Teva knew or should have known of the '094 patent at least because prior to any of its sales of Teva's 0.25 mg ANDA Product to third parties, Teva notified Plaintiffs of its certification under § 505(j)(2)(A)(vii)(IV) of the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act that the claims of the '094 patent are invalid. Accordingly, Defendants have had actual knowledge of the '094 patent and its infringement of this patent at least as of August 29, 2014.

32. Defendants are not licensed or otherwise authorized, directly and/or indirectly through third parties, to practice the claims of the '094 patent.

33. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' infringement of the '094 patent, Plaintiffs have been and will continue to be substantially and irreparably harmed by Teva's infringing activities unless those activities are enjoined by this Court. Plaintiffs do not have an adequate remedy at law.

34. On June 25, 2018, the Supreme Court of the United States granted Helsinn S.A.'s petition for a writ of certiorari in related Appeal No. 17-1229. Upon information and belief, based on Teva's understanding of the overlapping subject matter of the patent on appeal and claim 4 of the '094 patent (D.I. 48 at 2 ("Like the four patents invalidated by the Federal Circuit, the related '094 patent is directed to the same palonosetron formulations, has the same inventors, and claims priority to the same provisional application."); D.I. 391 (11-3962) at 1 ("Like the patents-in-suit, the '094 . . . patent[is] directed to the same invention (formulations of palonosetron), ha[s] the same inventors, and claim[s] priority to the same provisional application No. 60/444,351."); D.I. 395 (11-3962) at 1 ("Like the four patents invalidated by the Federal

Circuit, the related '094 . . . patent[is] directed to the same palonosetron formulations, ha[s] the same inventors, and claim[s] priority to the same provisional application.”)), Teva knew or should have known that its infringement of the '094 patent has been and is willful at least since June 25, 2018, and pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, Plaintiffs are entitled to treble damages.

35. This case is an exceptional one, and Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of their reasonable attorneys' fees under 35 U.S.C. § 285.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that:

A. A Judgment be entered declaring that Defendants Teva USA and Teva Ltd. have infringed the '094 patent by submitting the aforesaid ANDA;

B. A Judgment be entered declaring that Defendants Teva USA and Teva Ltd. have infringed and continue to infringe the '094 patent by making, using, offering to sell, selling, or importing Teva's ANDA Products identified in this First Amended Complaint in the United States;

C. An Order be issued that Defendants Teva USA and Teva Ltd., their officers, agents, servants and employees, and those persons in active concert or participation with any of them, are preliminarily and permanently enjoined from commercially manufacturing, using, offering for sale, selling, or importing Teva's ANDA Products identified in this First Amended Complaint, and any other product that infringes or induces or contributes to the infringement of the '094 patent, prior to the expiration of the '094 patent, including any extensions to which Plaintiffs are or become entitled; and

D. That this Court award damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 adequate to compensate Plaintiffs for Teva's infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty, together with pre-judgment interest;

E. That this Court award enhanced damages, up to and including trebling Plaintiffs' damages, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, for Defendants' willful infringement of the '094 patent since the Supreme Court of the United States granted Helsinn S.A.'s petition for a writ of certiorari on June 25, 2018 in related Appeal No. 17-1229;

F. That this Court order an accounting to determine the proper amount of the above damages;

G. Attorneys' fees in this action as an exceptional case pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

H. Costs and expenses in this action; and

I. Plaintiffs be awarded such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury on all issues that are triable by a jury.

Dated: December 13, 2018

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Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A

US008729094B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Calderari et al.(10) **Patent No.:** **US 8,729,094 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** ***May 20, 2014**(54) **LIQUID PHARMACEUTICAL
FORMULATIONS OF PALONOSETRON**(71) Applicants: **Helsinn Healthcare SA**, Lugano (CH);
Roche Palo Alto LLC, Palo Alto, CA
(US); **Simone Macciocchi**, Melide (CH);
Giulio Macciocchi, Breganzona (CH)(72) Inventors: **Giorgio Calderari**, Rancate (CH);
Daniele Bonadeo, Casalzuigno (IT);
Roberta Cannella, Varese (IT); **Alberto**
Macciocchi, Melide (CH); **Andrew**
Mikszal, Palo Alto, CA (US); **Thomas**
Malefyt, Carmel Valley, CA (US);
Kathleen M Lee, Palo Alto, CA (US)(73) Assignees: **Helsinn Healthcare SA**,
Pambio-Noranco (CH); **Roche Palo Alto**
LLC, Palo Alto, CA (US)(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.This patent is subject to a terminal dis-
claimer.(21) Appl. No.: **13/902,132**(22) Filed: **May 24, 2013**(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0261150 A1 Oct. 3, 2013

Related U.S. Application Data(63) Continuation of application No. 13/901,437, filed on
May 23, 2013, now Pat. No. 8,598,219, which is a
continuation-in-part of application No. 13/087,012,
filed on Apr. 14, 2011, now Pat. No. 8,518,981, which
is a continuation of application No. 11/186,311, filed
on Jul. 21, 2005, now Pat. No. 7,947,724, which is a
continuation of application No. PCT/EP2004/000888,
filed on Jan. 30, 2004.(60) Provisional application No. 60/444,351, filed on Jan.
30, 2003.(51) **Int. Cl.**
A61K 47/00 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **514/296**(58) **Field of Classification Search**
USPC 514/296
See application file for complete search history.(56) **References Cited**

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Primary Examiner — Shirley V Gembeh

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Clark G. Sullivan;
Troutman Sanders LLP(57) **ABSTRACT**The present invention relates to shelf-stable liquid formula-
tions of palonosetron for reducing chemotherapy and radio-
therapy induced emesis with palonosetron. The formulations
are particularly useful in the preparation of intravenous and
oral liquid medicaments.**30 Claims, No Drawings**

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May 24, 2011 Para. IV notice from Sandoz re '724 and '725 patents.

May 24, 2011 Para. IV notice from Dr. Reddy's re '724 and '725 patents.

Aug. 9, 2011 Para. IV notice from Dr. Reddy's re '424 patent.

Aug. 19, 2011 Para. IV notice from Teva Pharmaceuticals re '424 patent.

Sep. 22, 2011 Para. IV notice from Sandoz re '724, '725 and '424 patents.

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Sep. 23, 2011 Complaint for patent infringement (D. N.J. case No. 11-5579).

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LIQUID PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATIONS OF PALONOSETRON

This is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 13/901,437, filed May 23, 2013, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Ser. No. 13/087,012 filed Apr. 14, 2011, which is a continuation of U.S. Ser. No. 11/186,311 filed Jul. 21, 2005 (now U.S. Pat. No. 7,947,724), which is a continuation of PCT/EPO4/000888, filed Jan. 30, 2004, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application 60/444,351, filed Jan. 30, 2003. The content of these applications is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to shelf-life stable liquid formulations of palonosetron that are especially useful in the preparation of injectable and oral medicaments.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Emesis is a devastating consequence of cytotoxic therapy, radiotherapy, and post-operative environments that drastically affects the quality of life of people undergoing such treatments. In recent years a class of drugs referred to as 5-HT₃ (5-hydroxytryptamine) receptor antagonists has been developed that treat such emesis by antagonizing cerebral functions associated with the 5-HT₃ receptor. See *Drugs Acting on 5-Hydroxytryptamine Receptors*: The Lancet Sep. 23, 1989 and references cited therein. Drugs within this class include ondansetron, granisetron, alosetron, tropisetron, and dolasetron. These 5-HT₃ antagonists are often administered intravenously shortly before chemotherapy or radiotherapy is initiated, and can be administered more than once during a cycle of chemotherapy or radiotherapy. In addition, they are often supplied as tablets or oral elixirs to either supplement an intravenous administration, or to ease home usage of the drug if the patient is self-administering the chemotherapeutic regimen.

Because some chemotherapeutic agents can induce emesis over extended periods of several days even when they are administered only once, it would be desirable to administer an emesis-inhibiting drug such as a 5-HT₃ antagonist every day until the risk of emesis has substantially subsided. The present class of 5-HT₃ antagonists has not proven especially helpful meeting this need, however, because the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists currently marketed have proven to be less effective in controlling delayed nausea and vomiting than they are at controlling acute emesis. Sabra, K, *Choice of a 5HT₃ Receptor Antagonist for the Hospital Formulary*. EHP, October 1996; 2 (suppl 1):S19-24.

Recently, clinical investigations have been made concerning palonosetron, a new 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist reported in U.S. Pat. No. 5,202,333. These investigations have shown that the drug is an order of magnitude more potent than most existing 5-HT₃ receptor antagonists, has a surprising half-life of about 40 hours, and is effective to reduce delayed-onset nausea induced by chemotherapeutic agents. However, formulating palonosetron in liquid formulations has not proven an easy task, typically due to shelf-stability issues. U.S. Pat. No. 5,202,333 discloses an intravenous formulation of palonosetron in example 13 that contains the following ingredients:

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Ingredient	Mg
Palonosetron HCl	10-100 mg.
Dextrose Monohydrate	q.s. to make Isotonic
Citric Acid Monohydrate	1.05 mg.
Sodium Hydroxide	0.18 mg.
WFJ	To 1.0 ml.

The formulation has a pH of 3.7 and a shelf stability of less than the 1-2 year time period required by health authorities in various countries.

Ondansetron, its uses, and medicaments made with ondansetron are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,695,578, 4,753, 789, 4,929,632, 5,240,954, 5,344,658, 5,578,628, 5,578,632, 5,922,749, 5,622,720, 5,955,488, and 6,063,802. Commercially it is distributed by GlaxoSmithKline as Zofran® and is indicated for prevention of postoperative nausea and vomiting (PONV), cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV), and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (RINV) and it is available as an injection, tablets and solution, and as Zofran ODT® (ondansetron) Orally Disintegrating Tablets.

Granisetron, its uses, and medicaments made with granisetron are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,886,808, 4,937,247, 5,034,398 and 6,294,548. Commercially it is distributed by Roche Laboratories Inc. as Kytril®, indicated for the prevention of nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy or radiation therapy, and is offered in tablet form, oral solution, and as an injection.

Alosetron, its uses, and medicaments made with alosetron are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,360,800 and 6,284,770. Commercially it is distributed by GlaxoSmithKline as Lotronex®.

Tropisetron is commercially available as Navoban® (Novartis) CAS-89565-68-4 (tropisetron); CAS-105826-92-4 (tropisetron hydrochloride) and it is indicated for treatment of PONV and CINV.

Dolasetron, its uses, and medicaments made with ondansetron are disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,011,846, and 4,906,755. Commercially it is distributed by Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc. as Anzemet®, indicated for prevention of both PONV and CINV, and it is offered in the form of a tablet or an intravenous solution.

Therefore, there exists a need for a palonosetron formulation with increased stability and thereby increased shelf life. There also exists a need for an appropriate range of concentrations for both the 5-HT₃ receptor antagonist and its pharmaceutically acceptable carriers that would facilitate making a formulation with this increased stability.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a formulation of Palonosetron hydrochloride with increased pharmaceutical stability for preventing and/or reducing emesis.

It is another object of the invention to provide an acceptable range of concentrations which will stabilize a formulation containing Palonosetron hydrochloride.

It is a further object of the invention to provide a formulation of Palonosetron which would allow for prolonged storage.

It is also an object of the invention to provide a formulation of Palonosetron which would allow terminal sterilization.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The inventors have made a series of discoveries that support a surprisingly effective and versatile formulation for the treatment and prevention of emesis using palonosetron.

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These formulations are shelf stable for periods greater than 24 months at room temperature, and thus can be stored without refrigeration, and manufactured using non-aseptic, terminal sterilization processes.

In one aspect, the inventors have discovered that formulations which include the active ingredient palonosetron require in some instances only $\frac{1}{10}^{th}$ the amount of other previously known compounds for treating emesis, which surprisingly allows the use of concentrations of palonosetron far below those that would ordinarily be expected. Thus, in one embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a) from about 0.01 mg/mL to about 5 mg/mL palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

The inventors have further discovered that by adjusting the formulation's pH and/or excipient concentrations it is possible to increase the stability of palonosetron formulations. Therefore, in another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a) palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, at a pH from about 4.0 to about 6.0. In another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising from about 0.01 to about 5.0 mg/ml palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; from about 10 to about 100 millimoles citrate buffer; and from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/ml EDTA.

The inventors have further discovered that the addition of mannitol and a chelating agent can increase the stability of palonosetron formulations. Therefore, in still another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a) palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a chelating agent and mannitol.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

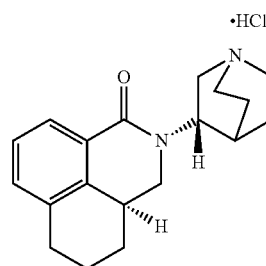
Definitions

"Vial" means a small glass container sealed with the most suitable stopper and seal, other suitable primary containers may be used, for instance, but not limited to, pre-filled syringes. Vial also means a sealed container of medication that is used one time only, and includes breakable and non-breakable glass vials, breakable plastic vials, miniature screw-top jars, and any other type of container of a size capable of holding only one unit dose of palonosetron (typically about 5 mL).

Throughout this specification the word "comprise," or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising," will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps, but not the exclusion of any other element, integer or step, or group of elements, integers or steps.

"Palonosetron" means (3aS)-2,3,3a,4,5,6-Hexahydro-2-[(S)-1-Azabicyclo[2.2.2]oct-3-yl]2,3,3a,4,5,6-hexahydro-1-oxo-1H-benz[de]isoquinoline, and is preferably present as the monohydrochloride. Palonosetron monohydrochloride can be represented by the following chemical structure:

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Concentrations—When concentrations of palonosetron are given herein, the concentration is measured in terms of the weight of the free base. Concentrations of all other ingredients are given based on the weight of ingredient added to the solution.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable" means that which is useful in preparing a pharmaceutical composition that is generally safe, non-toxic and neither biologically nor otherwise undesirable and includes that which is acceptable for veterinary use as well as human pharmaceutical use.

"Pharmaceutically acceptable salts" means salts which are pharmaceutically acceptable, as defined above, and which possess the desired pharmacological activity. Such salts include acid addition salts formed with inorganic acids such as hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, sulfuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and the like; or with organic acids such as acetic acid, propionic acid, hexanoic acid, heptanoic acid, cyclopentanepropionic acid, glycolic acid, pyruvic acid, lactic acid, malonic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tartaric acid, citric acid, benzoic acid, o-(4-hydroxybenzoyl)benzoic acid, cinnamic acid, mandelic acid, methanesulfonic acid, ethanesulfonic acid, 1,2-ethanedithionylsulfonic acid, 2-hydroxyethanesulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, p-chlorobenzenesulfonic acid, 2-naphthalenesulfonic acid, p-toluenesulfonic acid, camphorsulfonic acid, 4-methylbicyclo[2.2.2]oct-2-ene-1-carboxylic acid, glucoheptonic acid, 4,4'-methylenebis(3-hydroxy-2-ene-1-carboxylic acid), 3-phenylpropionic acid, trimethylacetic acid, tertiary butylacetic acid, lauryl sulfuric acid, gluconic acid, glutamic acid, hydroxynaphthoic acid, salicylic acid, stearic acid, muconic acid, and the like.

In addition, pharmaceutically acceptable salts may be formed when an acidic proton present is capable of reacting with inorganic or organic bases. Acceptable inorganic bases include sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, potassium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide and calcium hydroxide. Acceptable organic bases include ethanolamine, diethanolamine, triethanolamine, tromethamine, N-methylglucamine and the like.

Discussion

The fact that palonosetron can be formulated in some instances at concentrations of only about $\frac{1}{10}^{th}$ the amount of other previously known compounds for treating emesis, surprisingly allows the use of concentrations of palonosetron far below those that would ordinarily be expected. Thus, in one embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a) from about 0.01 mg/mL to about 5 mg/mL palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Similarly, in another embodiment the invention provides a method of formulating a pharmaceutically stable solution of palonosetron comprising admixing from about 0.01 mg/mL to about 5 mg/mL palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; with

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a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In alternative embodiments, the formulation includes palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a concentration from about 0.02 mg/mL to about 1.0 mg/mL, from about 0.03 mg/mL to about 0.2 mg/mL, and most optimally about 0.05

mg/ml. A particular advantage associated with the lower dosages of intravenous palonosetron is the ability to administer the drug in a single intravenous bolus over a short, discrete time period. This time period generally extends from about 10 to about 60 seconds, or about 10 to about 40 seconds, and most preferably is about 10 to 30 seconds. In one particular embodiment the palonosetron is supplied in vials that comprise 5 ml. of solution, which equates to about 0.25 mg of palonosetron at a concentration of about 0.05 mg/ml.

The inventors have further discovered that by adjusting the formulation's pH and/or excipient concentrations it is possible to increase the stability of palonosetron formulations. Therefore, in another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a) palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, at a pH from about 4.0 to about 6.0. Similarly, in another embodiment the invention provides a method of formulating a pharmaceutically stable solution of palonosetron comprising admixing a) palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, at a pH from about 4.0 to about 6.0. In alternative embodiments, the pH is from about 4.5 to about 5.5, and most optimally about 5.0. There are many examples to those of skill in the art of suitable solutions to adjust the pH of a formulation. Two exemplary solutions are sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid solution, either of which could be used to adjust the pH of the formulation.

In another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising from about 0.01 to about 5.0 mg/ml palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (i) from about 10 to about 100 millimoles citrate buffer, and/or (ii) from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/ml EDTA. Similarly, in another embodiment the invention provides a method of formulating a pharmaceutically stable solution of palonosetron comprising admixing from about 0.01 to about 5.0 mg/ml palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (i) from about 10 to about 100 millimoles citrate buffer, and/or (ii) from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/ml EDTA. The citrate buffer can be in the form of citric acid and/or a salt of citric acid such as trisodium citrate. In various embodiments, the ranges of one or more of the foregoing ingredients can be modified as follows:

The formulation may comprise palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a concentration from about 0.02 mg/mL to about 1.0 mg/mL, from about 0.03 mg/mL to about 0.2 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride, and most optimally about 0.05 mg/ml.

The formulation may comprise citrate buffer in a concentration of from about 10 to about 40 millimoles, or 15-30 millimoles.

The formulation may comprise EDTA in a concentration of from about 0.005 mg/ml to about 1.0 mg/ml, or about 0.3 to about 0.7 mg/ml, and most optimally about 0.5 mg/ml.

The inventors have further discovered that the addition of mannitol and a chelating agent can increase the stability of palonosetron formulations. Therefore, in still another embodiment the invention provides a pharmaceutically stable solution for preventing or reducing emesis comprising a)

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palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a chelating agent and mannitol. Similarly, in another embodiment the invention provides a method of formulating a pharmaceutically stable solution of palonosetron comprising admixing a) palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises a chelating agent and mannitol. The chelating agent is preferably EDTA, and, in various embodiments the chelating agent is present in a concentration of from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/mL or from about 0.05 mg/mL to about 1.0 mg/mL or from about 0.3 to about 0.7 mg/ml, or most optimally about 0.5 mg/mL. In various embodiments the mannitol is present in a concentration of from about 10.0 mg/ml to about 80.0 mg/ml, from about 20.0 mg/mL to about 60.0 mg/ml, or from about 40.0 to about 45.0 mg/ml.

Injectable formulations are typically formulated as aqueous solutions in which water is the primary excipient. Oral formulations will differ from injectable formulations generally by the additional presence of flavoring agents, coloring agents, or viscosity agents. Natural or synthetic sweeteners include, among others, mannitol, sorbitol, saccharose, saccharine, aspartame, acelsulphame K, or cyclamate. These agents are generally present in concentrations in excess of 100 mg/ml or 250 mg/ml when used as sweetening agents, in contrast to the 41.5 mg/ml concentration of mannitol described in some of the embodiments of the invention, in which mannitol is acting simply as a tonicifying agent.

The formulations of the present invention are particularly suited for use in injectable and oral liquid formulations, but it will be understood that the solutions may have alternative uses. For example, they may be used as intermediates in the preparation of other pharmaceutical dosage forms. Similarly, they may have other routes of administration including intranasal or inhalation. Injectable formulations may take any route including intramuscular, intravenous or subcutaneous.

Still further embodiments relate to improvements in the ease with which the palonosetron formulation can be stored or manufactured. In particular, the inventors have discovered that the formulations of the present invention allow storage of the product for extended periods at room temperature. Thus, in yet another embodiment the invention provides a method of storing one or more containers in which are contained a solution of palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising: a) providing a room comprising said one or more containers; b) adjusting or maintaining the temperature of the room at greater than about ten, 15, or 20 degrees celcius; and c) storing said containers in said room for one month, 3 months, 6 months, one year, 18 months, 24 months or more (but preferably not exceeding 36 months), wherein (i) the palonosetron or pharmaceutical salt thereof is present in a concentration of from about 0.01 mg/mL to about 5.0 mg/mL, (ii) the pH of the solution is from about 4.0 to about 6.0, (iii) the solution comprises from about 0.01 to about 5.0 mg/ml palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, from about 10 to about 100 millimoles citrate buffer and from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/ml EDTA, (iv) the solution comprises a chelating agent, or (v) the solution comprises from about 10 to about 100 millimoles of a citrate buffer.

The stability of the foregoing formulations also lends itself well to terminal sterilization processes in the manufacturing process. Therefore, in still another embodiment the invention provides a method of filling a container in which is contained a solution of palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable

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salt thereof comprising: a) providing one or more sterile open containers (preferably 5 ml. vials); b) filling said containers with a solution of palonosetron in a non-aseptic environment; c) sealing said filled containers; and d) sterilizing said sealed, filled containers, wherein (i) the palonosetron or pharmaceutical salt thereof is present in a concentration of from about 0.01 mg/mL to about 5 mg/mL, (ii) the pH of the solution is from about 4.0 to about 6.0, (iii) the solution comprises from about 0.01 to about 5.0 mg/ml palonosetron or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, from about 10 to about 100 millimoles citrate buffer and from about 0.005 to about 1.0 mg/ml EDTA, (iv) the solution comprises a chelating agent, or (v) the solution comprises from about 10 to about 100 milliMoles of a citrate buffer.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

Stabilizing pH

A study was conducted to determine the effect of pH on formulations containing palonosetron hydrochloride, measuring the stability at 80° C. at pH 2.0, 5.0, 7.4, and 10.0. The results indicated that palonosetron hydrochloride is most stable at pH 5.0.

Example 2

Stabilizing Concentration Ranges

A formulation optimization study was performed using an experimental design software. Twenty-four lots of drug product were analyzed to investigate the appropriate concentration ranges for palonosetron hydrochloride (0.05 mg/mL to 5.0 mg/mL), citrate buffer (0 to 80 mM) and EDTA (0 to 0.10%). The level of EDTA and citrate buffer were selected based on the optimal formulation, which was shown to be formulated with EDTA 0.05% and 20 mM citrate buffer at pH 5.0. The results of this study indicated that palonosetron concentration was also a critical factor in chemical stability, with greatest stability seen at the lowest palonosetron concentrations.

Example 3

Tonicifying Agent

Formulations of palonosetron hydrochloride in citrate buffer were prepared including either a) sodium chloride or b) mannitol. The palonosetron hydrochloride formulation including mannitol showed superior stability. The optimum level of mannitol required for an isotonic solution was found to be 4.15%.

Example 4

Formulation I

The following is a representative pharmaceutical formulation containing palonosetron that is useful for intravenous formulations, or other liquid formulations of the drug.

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Ingredient	mg/mL
Palonosetron Hydrochloride	0.05*
Mannitol	41.5
EDTA	0.5
Trisodium citrate	3.7
Citric acid	1.56
WFJ	q.s. to 1 ml
Sodium hydroxide solution and/or hydrochloric acid solution	pH 5.0 ± 0.5

*calculated as a free base

Example 5

Formulation II

The following is a representative pharmaceutical formulation containing palonosetron that is useful for oral formulations, or other liquid formulations of the drug.

Ingredient	mg/mL
Palonosetron Hydrochloride	0.05*
Mannitol	150
EDTA	0.5
Trisodium citrate	3.7
Citric acid	1.56
WFJ	q.s. to 1 ml
Sodium hydroxide solution and/or hydrochloric acid solution	pH 5.0 ± 0.5
Flavoring	q.s.

*calculated as a free base

Example 6

Stability of Palonosetron without Dexamethasone

The physical and chemical stability of palonosetron HCl was studied in concentrations of 5 µg/mL and 30 µg/mL in 5% dextrose injection, 0.9% sodium chloride injection, 5% dextrose in 0.45% sodium chloride injection, and dextrose 5% in lactated Ringer's injection. The admixtures were evaluated over 14 days at 4° C. in the dark and for 48 hours at 23° C. under fluorescent light.

Test samples of palonosetron HCl were prepared in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) bags of the infusion solutions at concentrations of 5 and 30 µg/mL. Evaluations for physical and chemical stability were performed on samples taken initially and after 1, 3, 5, 7, and 14 days of storage at 4° C. and after 1, 4, 24, and 48 hours at 23° C. Physical stability was assessed using visual observation in normal room light and using a high-intensity monodirectional light beam. In addition, turbidity and particle content were measured electronically. Chemical stability of the drug was evaluated by using a stability-indicating high performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) analytical technique.

All samples were physically stable throughout the study. The solution remained clear, and little or no change in particulate burden and haze level were found. Additionally, little or no loss of palonosetron HCl occurred in any of the samples at either temperature throughout the entire study period.

Example 7

Stability of Palonosetron with Dexamethasone

The physical and chemical stability of palonosetron HCl 0.25 mg admixed with dexamethasone (as sodium phosphate)

10 mg or 20 mg in 5% dextrose injection or 0.9% sodium chloride injection in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) minibags, and also admixed with dexamethasone (as sodium phosphate) 3.3 mg in 5% dextrose injection or 0.9% sodium chloride injection in polypropylene syringes at 4° C. in the dark for 14 days and at 23° C. exposed to normal laboratory fluorescent light over 48 hours, was studied.

Test samples of palonosetron HCl 5 µg/mL with dexamethasone (as sodium phosphate) 0.2 mg/mL and also 0.4 mg/mL were prepared in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) minibags of each infusion solution. Additionally, palonosetron HCl 25 µg/mL with dexamethasone (as sodium phosphate) 0.33 mg/mL in each infusion solution were prepared as 10 mL of test solution in 20-mL polypropylene syringes. Evaluations for physical and chemical stability were performed on samples taken initially and after 1, 3, 7, and 14 days of storage at 4° C. and after 1, 4, 24, and 48 hours at 23° C. Physical stability was assessed using visual observation in normal room light and using a high-intensity monodirectional light beam. In addition, turbidity and particle content were measured electronically. Chemical stability of the drug was evaluated by using a stability-indicating high performance liquid chromatographic (HPLC) analytical technique.

All samples were physically compatible throughout the study. The solutions remained clear, and little or no change in particulate burden and haze level were found. Additionally, little or no loss of palonosetron HCl and dexamethasone occurred in any of the samples at either temperature throughout the entire study period.

Example 8

Formulation III

The following is a representative pharmaceutical formulation and container closure for palonosetron that is useful for intravenous infusion formulations.

Ingredient	Amount (mg)
Palonosetron Hydrochloride	0.75 ^{a)}
Sodium Chloride	450.0
EDTA	2.5
Sodium citrate	18.5
Citric acid monohydrate	7.8
WFI	q.s. to 50 mL
Sodium hydroxide solution and/or hydrochloric acid solution	pH 4.8 ± 0.5
Container closure system	plastic container ^{b)} plus rubber stopper ^{c)}

^{a)}Calculated based on the weight of free base.
^{b)}Polyethylene multilayer film infusion bag.
^{c)}Isoprene rubber stopper.

This invention has been described with reference to its preferred embodiments. Variations and modifications of the invention will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the foregoing detailed description of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing the likelihood of cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, comprising intravenously administering to a human in need thereof a pharmaceutical single-use, unit-dose formulation comprising a 5 mL sterile aqueous isotonic solution buffered at a pH of about 5.0±0.5, said solution comprising:
about 0.05 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride based on the weight of its free base;

- about 41.5 mg/mL mannitol;
about 0.5 mg/mL EDTA; and
a citrate buffer,
wherein said formulation is stable at 24 months when stored at room temperature, and
wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs over a period of time of 10 to 60 seconds.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of acute nausea and vomiting in said human.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of delayed nausea and vomiting in said human.
5. A method for reducing the likelihood of cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, comprising intravenously administering to a human in need thereof a pharmaceutical single-use, unit-dose formulation comprising a 5 mL sterile aqueous isotonic solution buffered at a pH of about 5.0±0.5, said solution comprising:
about 0.05 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride based on the weight of its free base;
from about 10 mg/mL to about 80 mg/mL mannitol; and
from about 0.3 mg/mL to about 0.7 mg/mL EDTA;
wherein said solution optionally comprises a citrate buffer, wherein said formulation is stable at 24 months when stored at room temperature, and
wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs over a period of time of 10 to 60 seconds.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of acute nausea and vomiting in said human.
8. The method of claim 5, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of delayed nausea and vomiting in said human.
9. The method of claim 5, wherein said solution comprises from about 20 mg/mL to about 60 mg/mL mannitol.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein said solution comprises from about 40 mg/mL to about 45 mg/mL mannitol.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said solution comprises about 41.5 mg/mL mannitol and about 0.5 mg/mL EDTA.
12. The method of claim 5, wherein said solution comprises a citrate buffer.
13. A method for reducing the likelihood of cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, comprising intravenously administering to a human in need thereof a pharmaceutical single-use, unit-dose formulation comprising a 5 mL sterile aqueous isotonic solution, said solution comprising:
about 0.05 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride based on the weight of its free base;
a tonicifying effective amount of mannitol; and
from about 0.3 mg/mL to about 0.7 mg/mL EDTA;
wherein said solution optionally comprises a citrate buffer and optionally has a pH of from about 5.0±0.5, wherein said formulation is stable at 24 months when stored at room temperature, and
wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs over a period of time of 10 to 60 seconds.

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15. The method of claim 13, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of acute nausea and vomiting in said human.

16. The method of claim 13, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of delayed nausea and vomiting in said human.

17. The method of claim 13, wherein said solution comprises a citrate buffer.

18. The method of claim 13, wherein said solution is buffered at a pH of about 5.0±0.5.

19. The method of claim 13, wherein said solution comprises from about 10 mg/mL to about 80 mg/mL mannitol.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said solution comprises from about 20 mg/mL to about 60 mg/mL mannitol.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said solution comprises about 41.5 mg/mL mannitol and about 0.5 mg/mL EDTA.

22. A method for reducing the likelihood of cancer chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, comprising intravenously administering to a human in need thereof a pharmaceutical single-use, unit-dose formulation comprising a 5 mL sterile aqueous isotonic solution buffered at a pH of about 5.0±0.5, said solution comprising:
about 0.05 mg/mL palonosetron hydrochloride based on the weight of its free base; and
a tonicifying effective amount of mannitol;

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wherein said solution optionally comprises one or a combination of a citrate buffer and a chelating agent, wherein said formulation is stable at 24 months when stored at room temperature, and
wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs before the start of the cancer chemotherapy.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein said intravenous administration to said human occurs over a period of time of 10 to 60 seconds.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of acute nausea and vomiting in said human.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein said intravenous administration reduces the likelihood of delayed nausea and vomiting in said human.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein said solution comprises a citrate buffer.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein said solution comprises a chelating agent.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein said chelating agent is EDTA.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said solution comprises from about 0.3 mg/mL to about 0.7 mg/mL EDTA.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein said solution comprises from about 10 mg/mL to about 80 mg/mL mannitol.

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