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CA 2312990 C 2008/04/29

(11)(21) **2 312 990**

(12) **BREVET CANADIEN  
CANADIAN PATENT**

(13) **C**

(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 1998/12/01  
(87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 1999/06/17  
(45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2008/04/29  
(85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2000/06/05  
(86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 1998/025104  
(87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 1999/029314  
(30) Priorité/Priority: 1997/12/08 (US08/986,586)

(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. *A61K 31/155* (2006.01),  
*A61P 3/10* (2006.01), *C07C 279/26* (2006.01)

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(54) Titre : SELS DE METFORMINE ET PROCEDE  
(54) Title: NOVEL SALTS OF METFORMIN AND METHOD

(57) Abrégé/Abstract:

Novel salts of the antidiabetic agent metformin are provided which are metformin salts of dibasic acids (2:1 molar ratio), preferably metformin (2:1) fumarate and metformin (2:1) succinate, which may be employed alone or in combination with another antihyperglycemic agent such as glyburide, for treating diabetes. A method for treating diabetes employing the novel metformin salt by itself or in combination with another antidiabetic agent is also provided.



**PCT**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification<sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>A61K 31/155</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 99/29314</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 17 June 1999 (17.06.99)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US98/25104 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 1 December 1998 (01.12.98) <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/986,586                      8 December 1997 (08.12.97)      US <b>(71) Applicant:</b> BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB COMPANY [US/US]; P.O. Box 4000, Princeton, NJ 08543-4000 (US). <b>(72) Inventors:</b> TIMMINS, Peter; 5 Heathbank Avenue, Irby, Merseyside L61 4XD (GB). WINTER, William, J.; 2166 W. Lake Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152 (US). SRIVASTAVA, Sushil, K.; 9 Kayann Drive, Dayton, NJ 08810 (US). BRETNALL, Alison; 33 Sandon Road, Newton, Chester CH2 2EP (GB). WEI, Chenkou; 44 Windsor Drive, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550 (US). POWERS, Gerald, L.; 721 Cranbury Cross Road, North Brunswick, NJ 08902 (US). <b>(74) Agents:</b> RODNEY, Burton et al.; Bristol-Myers Squibb Com- pany, P.O. Box 4000, Princeton, NJ 08543-4000 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> NOVEL SALTS OF METFORMIN AND METHOD  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  Novel salts of the antidiabetic agent metformin are provided which are metformin salts of dibasic acids (2:1 molar ratio), preferably metformin (2:1) fumarate and metformin (2:1) succinate, which may be employed alone or in combination with another antihyperglycemic agent such as glyburide, for treating diabetes. A method for treating diabetes employing the novel metformin salt by itself or in combination with another antidiabetic agent is also provided.		

NOVEL SALTS OF METFORMIN AND METHODField of the Invention

The present invention relates to salts of the anti-  
5 diabetic agent metformin, and more particularly to  
metformin salts of dibasic acids, preferably dibasic  
organic carboxylic acids, optionally in combination with  
other anti-diabetic agent and to a method employing such  
salts or combinations for treating diabetes.

10

Background of the Invention

The biguanide antihyperglycemic agent metformin is  
concurrently marketed in the U.S. in the form of its  
hydrochloride salt (Glucophage™, Bristol-Myers Squibb  
15 Company).

Metformin hydrochloride is a cohesive white powder  
which is highly soluble in water (>300 mg/ml at ambient  
temperature), has a hygroscopicity measured at 95% relative  
humidity /25°C of greater than 20% moisture uptake at 6  
20 hours, and a high compaction susceptibility. Accordingly,  
handling of metformin hydrochloride in a pharmaceutical  
manufacturing facility could present problems especially in  
high humidity environments. Furthermore, formulation of  
the metformin hydrochloride in a controlled release system  
25 is exceedingly difficult due, at least in part, to its  
extremely high water solubility .

The currently marketed metformin hydrochloride salt  
has a pronounced saline, bitter taste. Accordingly, it is  
usually marketed as a coated tablet where the coating is  
30 designed to mask any unpleasant taste. However, where the  
metformin hydrochloride salt is in the form of scored-  
divisible tablets, it will not usually have a coating or  
outer layer to mask the unpleasant taste.

Taste is of primary concern where the metformin  
35 hydrochloride is to be formulated as a chewable tablet or  
liquid indicated for children or adults who are not able to  
swallow tablets.

In such cases, the unpleasant taste of the hydrochloride salt could lead to compliance problems.

The prior art is replete with references disclosing metformin salts of various organic or inorganic acids in a 1:1 molar ratio of metformin:acid. Thus, for example, U.S. Patent No. 3,174,901 discloses phosphate, sulfate, hydrobromide, salicylate, maleate, benzoate, succinate, ethanesulfonate, fumarate and glycolate salts of metformin;

U.S. Patent No. 4,835,184 discloses the p-chlorophenoxyacetic acid salt of metformin;

French Patent Nos. 2320735 and 2037002 disclose the pamoate salt of metformin;

French Patent No. 2264539 and Japanese Patent No. 66008075 disclose the orotate salt of metformin;

French Patent No. 2275199 discloses the (4-chlorophenoxy)isobutyrate salt of metformin;

U.S. Patent No. 4,080,472 discloses the clofibrate salt of metformin;

U.S. Patent No. 3,957,853 discloses the acetylsalicylate salt of metformin;

French Patent No. 2220256 discloses the theophyllin-7-acetate salt of metformin;

German Patent Nos. 2357864 and 1967138 disclose the nicotinic acid salt of metformin;

U.S. Patent No. 3,903,141 discloses the adamantate salt of metformin;

Japanese Patent No. 69008566 discloses the zinc-chlorophyllin salt of metformin;

Japanese Patent No. 64008237 discloses hydroxy acid salts of metformin, including salts of hydroxy aliphatic dicarboxylic acids such as mesotartaric acid, tartaric acid, mesoxalic acids, and oxidized maleates;

Japanese Patent No. 63014942 discloses the tannic acid salt of metformin;

Japanese Patent Nos. 87005905 and 61022071 disclose the 3-methyl-pyrazole-5-carboxylic acid (or other 5-members heterocycle carboxylic acid) salt of metformin;

Romanian Patent No. 82052 discloses sulfamido  
aryloxyalkyl carboxylic acid salts of metformin;

Soviet Union Patent No. 992512 discloses the  
trimethoxy benzoic acid salt of metformin;

5 U.S. Patent No. 4,028,402 discloses the  
dichloroacetic acid salt of metformin.

All of the above salts are formed of metformin:  
salt in a 1:1 molar ratio.

10 U.S. Patent No. 5,631,224 to Efendic et al issued  
May 20, 1997, discloses a combination of metformin with  
GLP-1(7-36) amide, or GLP-1(7-37) or a fragment thereof  
which retains GLP-1(7-37) activity.

#### Description of the Invention

15 In accordance with the present invention, novel  
salts of metformin are provided which retain equivalent  
antihyperglycemic activity to metformin hydrochloride, but  
which have improved handling properties as compared to  
metformin hydrochloride salt, including lower  
20 hygroscopicity and better flow properties as well as  
reduced compaction susceptibility and reduced corrosiveness  
such as to tablet tooling. The novel salts of the  
invention will also have improved taste properties as  
compared to the hydrochloride salt thus enhancing patient  
25 compliance, especially where the novel salts are in the  
form of scored tablets, chewable tablets or liquids.

In addition, the novel salts of metformin of the  
invention are significantly less soluble in water than the  
hydrochloride salt and thus provide the opportunity for  
30 formulating metformin in controlled release systems which  
require less polymer excipients to achieve a desired  
metformin release rate. In a preferred embodiment, the metformin  
salt has a solubility in water (mg/ml) at ambient temperature of less than 150 mg/ml.

35 The novel metformin salts of the invention are metformin salts of dibasic  
acids wherein the molar ratio of metformin:dibasic acid is 2:1.

The dibasic acid forming the novel salt with metformin is preferably a  
dibasic organic carboxylic acid

which includes saturated dicarboxylic acids such as succinic acid, malonic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, and pimelic acid and unsaturated dicarboxylic acids such as fumaric acid, maleic acid, and hydroxydicarboxylic acids  
5 such as malic acid, tartronic acid, and tartaric acid. Most preferred are the metformin (2:1) salt of succinic acid and the metformin (2:1) salt of fumaric acid.

The preferred metformin (2:1) fumarate salt of the invention is a free-flowing white crystalline solid which  
10 has a solubility in water at ambient temperature of 140 mg salt per ml water.

The preferred metformin (2:1) succinate salt of the invention is a free-flowing white powder which has a solubility in water at ambient temperature of 95 mg salt  
15 per ml water.

Moreover, metformin hydrochloride is a cohesive white powder which has a high solubility in water at ambient temperature of greater than 300 mg metformin per ml water.

20 The metformin (2:1) fumarate salt and metformin (2:1) succinate salt of the invention each has a low hygroscopicity measured at 95% relative humidity at 25°C of less than 7% moisture uptake at 6 hours; while metformin hydrochloride has a high hygroscopicity measured at 95%  
25 relative humidity of greater than 20% moisture uptake at 6 hours.

Furthermore, the metformin (2:1) salts of the invention have reduced compaction susceptibility (tendency of the salt to compact under its own weight) as compared to  
30 the high compaction susceptibility of the metformin hydrochloride salt which could cause problems in bulk transport.

Accordingly, the novel metformin (2:1) salts of the invention with their lower hygroscopicity and improved flow  
35 properties and reduced compaction susceptibility, provide substantial and unexpected benefits over metformin

hydrochloride in terms of handling during tabletting manufacture.

Surprisingly, it has also been found that the metformin (2:1) fumarate salt and the metformin (2:1) succinate salt have a substantially more tolerable taste as compared to the metformin hydrochloride salt. Accordingly, fumarate and succinate salts of the invention may be formulated as scored tablets, as well as chewable tablets or liquids without having an adverse effect on patient compliance.

The metformin (2:1) salts of dibasic acids of the invention are prepared employing conventional salt forming procedures. Thus, for example, the metformin base (which may be prepared from the hydrochloride using an ion-exchange column or other conventional technique) is dissolved in methanol or other suitable solvent and then admixed with a solution of the dibasic organic carboxylic acid, such as fumaric acid or succinic acid, in ethanol or other suitable solvent (in a 2:1 molar ratio metformin:dibasic acid). The desired salt crystallizes out and may be recovered by filtration, and dried to form a free flowing solid.

Still further in accordance with the invention, novel antihyperglycemic combinations are provided which include a metformin salt of a dibasic acid (2:1 molar ratio) in combination with another antihyperglycemic agent which may be administered orally or by injection.

The use of the metformin salt of the invention in combination with another anti-hyperglycemic agent produces antihyperglycemic results greater than that possible from each of these medicaments alone and greater than the combined additive anti-hyperglycemic effects produced by these medicaments.

The other antihyperglycemic agent may be an oral antihyperglycemic agent preferably a sulfonyl urea such as glyburide (also known as glibenclamide), glimepiride (disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,379,785), glipizide,

gliclazide or chlorpropamide, other known sulfonylureas or other antihyperglycemic agents which act on the ATP-dependent channel of the  $\beta$ -cells, with glyburide being preferred.

5           The metformin salt of the invention will be employed in a weight ratio to the sulfonyl urea in the range from about 300:1 to about 50:1, preferably from about 250:1 to about 75:1.

10           The oral antihyperglycemic agent may also be a glucosidase inhibitor such as acarbose (disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,904,769) or miglitol (disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,639,436).

15           The metformin salt of the invention will be employed in a weight ratio to the glucosidase inhibitor within the range from about 300:1 to about 2:1, preferably from about 200:1 to about 25:1.

20           The metformin salt of the invention may be employed in combination with a thiazolidinedione oral anti-diabetic agent (which has an insulin sensitivity effect in NIDDM patients) such as troglitazone (Warner-Lambert's Rezulin®, disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,572,912), zorglitazone (SKB), pioglitazone (Takeda), Mitsubishi's MCC-555 (disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,594,016) Glaxo-Wellcome's GL-262570, englitazone (CP-68722, Pfizer) or darglitazone  
25           (CP-86325, Pfizer).

          The metformin salt of the invention will be employed in a weight ratio to the thiazolidinedione in an amount within the range from about 75:1 to about 0.1:1, preferably from about 5:1 to about 0.5:1.

30           The novel metformin salt of the invention may also be employed in combination with a non-oral antihyperglycemic agent such as insulin or with glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) such as GLP-1(1-36) amide, GLP-1(7-36) amide, GLP-1(7-37) (as disclosed in U.S. Patent No.  
35           5,614,492 to Habener, which may be



administered via injection, orally, or by transdermal or buccal devices.

The novel metformin salts of the invention alone or in combination with another antihyper-glycemic agent may also be employed in combination with amylin.

In addition, in accordance with the present invention a method is provided for treating hyperglycemia including Type II diabetes (NIDDM) and/or Type I diabetes (IDDM) wherein a therapeutically effective amount of a metformin salt of a dibasic acid (2:1 molar ratio), optionally in combination with another antihyperglycemic agent, is administered to a patient in need of treatment.

Where present, the sulfonyl ureas, such as glyburide, glimepiride, glipyrider, glipizide, chlorpropamide and gliclazide and the glucosidase inhibitors acarbose or miglitol may be employed in formulations, amounts and dosing as indicated in the Physician's Desk Reference.

Where present, the thiazolidinedione anti-diabetic agent may be employed in amounts within the range from about 0.01 to about 2000 mg/day which may be administered in single or divided doses one to four times per day.

Where present insulin may be employed in formulations, amounts and dosing as indicated by the Physician's Desk Reference.

Where present GLP-1 peptides may be administered in oral buccal formulations, by nasal administration or parenterally as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,346,701 (TheraTech), 5,614,492 and 5,631,224.

30

The novel metformin salts of the present invention are potent anti-hyperglycemic agents at least equivalent to metformin hydrochloride and can be administered to various mammalian species, such as dogs, cats, humans, etc., in need of such treatment in the same manner as metformin hydrochloride. These metformin salts can be administered systemically, preferably orally.

35

The metformin salts of the invention alone or in combination with one or more oral antihyperglycemic agents can be incorporated in a conventional systemic dosage form, such as a tablet, capsule, elixir or injectable

5 formulation. The above dosage forms will also include the necessary physiologically acceptable carrier material, excipient, lubricant, buffer, antibacterial, bulking agent (such as mannitol), anti-oxidants (ascorbic acid or sodium bisulfite) or the like. Oral dosage forms are preferred,  
10 although parenteral forms are quite satisfactory as well.

The dose administered must be carefully adjusted according to the age, weight, and condition of the patient, as well as the route of administration, dosage form and regimen, and the desired result. In general, the dosage  
15 forms of the metformin (2:1) salt of the invention (whether by itself or with another antihyperglycemic agent) described above may be administered in amounts as described for metformin hydrochloride (Bristol-Myers Squibb Company's Glucophage®) as set out in the Physician's Desk Reference.

20 The combination of the metformin salt of the invention and the other antihyperglycemic agent may be formulated separately or, where possible, in a single formulation employing conventional formulation procedures.

The various formulations of the invention may  
25 optionally include one or more fillers or excipients in an amount within the range of from about 0 to about 90% by weight and preferably from about 1 to about 80% by weight such as lactose, sugar, corn starch, modified corn starch, mannitol, sorbitol, inorganic salts such as calcium  
30 carbonate and/or cellulose derivatives such as wood cellulose and microcrystalline cellulose.

One or more binders may be present in addition to or in lieu of the fillers in an amount within the range of from about 0 to about 35% and preferably from about 0.5 to  
35 about 30% by weight of the composition. Examples of such binders which are suitable for use herein include polyvinylpyrrolidone (molecular weight ranging from about

5000 to about 80,000 and preferably about 40,000), lactose, starches such as corn starch, modified corn starch, sugars, gum acacia and the like as well as a wax binder in finely powdered form (less than 500 microns) such as carnauba wax, paraffin, spermaceti, polyethylenes or microcrystalline wax.

Where the composition is to be in the form of a tablet, it will include one or more tablet disintegrants in an amount within the range of from about 0.5 to about 10% and preferably from about 2 to about 8% by weight of the composition such as croscarmellose sodium, povidone, crospovidone, sodium starch glycolate, corn starch or microcrystalline cellulose as well as one or more tableting lubricants in an amount within the range of from about 0.2 to about 8% and preferably from about 0.5 to about 2% by weight of the composition, such as magnesium stearate, stearic acid, palmitic acid, calcium stearate, talc, carnauba wax and the like. Other conventional ingredients which may optionally be present include preservatives, stabilizers, anti-adherents or silica flow conditioners or glidants, such as Syloid brand silicon dioxide as well as FD&C colors.

Tablets of the invention may also include a coating layer which may comprise from 0 to about 15% by weight of the tablet composition. The coating layer which is applied over the tablet core may comprise any conventional coating formulations and will include one or more film-formers or binders, such as a hydrophilic polymer like hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose and a hydrophobic polymer like ethyl cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyvinyl alcohol-maleic anhydride copolymers,  $\beta$ -pinene polymers, glyceryl esters of wood resins and the like and one or more plasticizers, such as triethyl citrate, diethyl phthalate, propylene glycol, glycerin, butyl phthalate, castor oil and the like. Both core tablets as well as coating formulations may contain aluminum lakes to provide color.

The film formers are applied from a solvent system containing one or more solvents including water, alcohols like methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol, ketones like acetone, or ethylmethyl ketone, chlorinated hydrocarbons like methylene chloride, dichloroethane, and 1,1,1-trichloroethane.

Where a color is employed, the color will be applied together with the film former, plasticizer and solvent compositions.

10 A preferred tablet composition of the invention will include from about 90 to about 97.5% by weight metformin (2:1) salt from about 2 to about 8% by weight providone, and from about 0.5 to about 2% by weight magnesium stearate.

15 The pharmaceutical composition of the invention may be prepared as follows. A mixture of the medicament and a fraction (less than 50%) of the filler where present (such as lactose), with or without color, are mixed together and passed through a #12 to #40 mesh screen. Filler-binder 20 where present (such as microcrystalline cellulose), disintegrant (such as providone) are added and mixed. Lubricant (such as magnesium stearate) is added with mixing until a homogeneous mixture is obtained.

The resulting mixture may then be compressed into 25 tablets of up to 2 grams in size.

Where desired, the tablets of the invention may be formulated by a wet granulation techniques as disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,030,447.

30 The following examples represent preferred embodiments of the invention.

Example 1Preparation of Metformin (2:1) Fumarate

Metformin base (8.71 moles) (prepared from the  
5 hydrochloride salt via an ion-exchange column) was  
dissolved in methanol/H<sub>2</sub>O [5:1]. With stirring, a solution  
of fumaric acid (4.05 moles) in ethanol was added over a  
period of one hour under a nitrogen atmosphere at ambient  
temperature (~20°C). Crystallization began to occur  
10 immediately. After stirring the slurry for one hour at  
ambient temperature, the product was filtered off, washed  
with ethanol and dried under vacuum to afford the metformin  
(2:1) fumarate salt as a free-flowing white crystalline  
solid in 72 M% yield and melting point of 247-249°C.  
15 The resulting metformin (2:1) fumarate salt had a  
solubility in water (mg/ml) of 140, a hygroscopicity  
measured at 95% relative humidity/25°C of less than 7%  
moisture uptake at 6 hours, and a low compaction  
susceptibility. Tabletting of the metformin (2:1) fumarate  
20 salt resulted in reduced corrosion of tablet tooling  
equipment as compared with the corresponding hydrochloride  
salt.

Example 2Preparation of Metformin (2:1) Succinate

Metformin base (8.95 moles) (prepared from the  
hydrochloride salt via an ion-exchange column) was  
dissolved in methanol/H<sub>2</sub>O [5:1]. With stirring, a solution  
30 of succinic acid (4.42 moles) in ethanol was added over one  
hour under a nitrogen atmosphere at ambient temperature  
(~20°C). Crystallization of the salt commenced shortly  
after addition of the succinic acid solution. After  
stirring the slurry for an hour at ambient temperature, the  
35 product was filtered off, washed with ethanol and dried  
under vacuum to form the metformin (2:1) succinate salt as

a free flowing white crystalline solid in 89 M% yield and melting point of 246-247°C.

The resulting metformin (2:1) succinate salt had a solubility in water (mg/ml) of 95, a hygroscopicity measured at 95% relative humidity/25°C of less than 1% moisture uptake at 30 minutes, and a low compaction susceptibility. Tabletting of the metformin (2:1) fumarate salt resulted in reduced corrosion of tablet tooling equipment as compared with the corresponding hydrochloride salt.

### Example 3

#### Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin (2:1) Fumarate

15

Tablets of the following formulation were prepared as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
20	Metformin (2:1) fumarate	600.0 mg
	Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
	Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
	Povidone USP	15.0 mg
	Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

25

In a planetary mixer metformin (2:1) fumarate was blended with half the microcrystalline cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The povidone USP was dissolved in a suitable quantity of purified water and this solution was used to wet granulate the drug-excipient mixture. The granules were dried in an oven at 60°C to a moisture content of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone blender the granules were mixed with the remaining microcrystalline cellulose and then with the magnesium stearate. The resulting mix was compressed into tablets using suitable capsule shaped tooling.

35

This formulation does not require introduction of additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order to ensure trouble free tableting.

- 5           The metformin fumarate salt has a less intense taste than metformin hydrochloride which means film coating of the final metformin fumarate tablet is not necessary.

Example 4

10           Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin  
                  (2:1) Succinate

Tablets of the following formulation are prepared as described below.

15

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
Metformin (2:1) succinate	600.0 mg
Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
20 Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose	15.0 mg
(5 cps) (HPMC) USP	
Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

- 25           In a planetary mixer the metformin (2:1) succinate is blended with half the microcrystalline cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The HPMC USP is dispersed in a suitable quantity of purified water and this mixture is used to wet granulate the drug-excipient mixture. The granules are dried in an oven at 60°C to a moisture content
- 30           of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone blender the granules are mixed with the remaining microcrystalline cellulose and then with the magnesium stearate. The resulting mix is compressed into tablets using suitable capsule shaped tooling.

- 35           This formulation does not require introduction of additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is

the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order to ensure trouble free tableting.

Example 5

5           Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin  
              (2:1) Fumarate and Glyburide

Tablets of the following formulation are prepared as described below.

10

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) fumarate	600.0 mg
	Glyburide	5.0 mg
	Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
15	Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
	Povidone USP	15.0 mg
	Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

20           In a planetary mixer metformin (2:1) fumarate is blended with half the microcrystalline cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The povidone USP is dissolved in a suitable quantity of purified water and this solution is used to wet granulate the drug-exciipient mixture. The granules are dried in an oven at 60°C to a moisture content

25           of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone blender the granules are mixed with the remaining microcrystalline cellulose and then with the magnesium stearate. The resulting mix is compressed into tablets using suitable capsule shaped tooling.

30           This formulation does not require introduction of additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order to ensure trouble free tableting, and the less intense taste of the fumarate salt means film coating of the final

35           tablet may not be necessary.



Example 6Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin  
(2:1) Succinate and Glyburide

5           Tablets of the following formulations are prepared  
as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) succinate	600.0 mg
10	Glyburide	5.0 mg
	Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
	Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
	Hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose (5 cps) USP	15.0 mg
15	Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

          In a planetary mixer metformin (2:1) succinate and  
glyburide are blended with half the microcrystalline  
cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The HPMC USP  
20 is dissolved in a suitable quantity of purified water and  
this solution is used to wet granulate the drug-excipient  
mixture. The granules are dried in an oven at 60°C to a  
moisture content of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone blender the  
granules are mixed with the remaining microcrystalline  
25 cellulose and then with the magnesium stearate. The  
resulting mix is compressed into tablets using suitable  
capsule shaped tooling.

          This formulation does not require introduction of  
additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is  
30 the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order  
to ensure trouble free tableting.

Example 7Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin  
(2:1) Fumarate and Glipizide

5           Tablets of the following formulations are prepared  
as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) fumarate	600.0 mg
10	Glipizide	5.0 mg
	Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
	Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
	Povidone USP	15.0 mg
	Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

15

          In a planetary mixer metformin (2:1) fumarate and  
glipizide are blended with half the microcrystalline  
cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The povidone  
USP is dissolved in a suitable quantity of purified water  
20 and this solution is used to wet granulate the drug-  
excipient mixture. The granules are dried in an oven at  
60°C to a moisture content of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone  
blender the granules are mixed with the remaining  
microcrystalline cellulose and then with the magnesium  
25 stearate. The resulting mix is compressed into tablets  
using suitable capsule shaped tooling.

          This formulation does not require introduction of  
additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is  
the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order  
30 to ensure trouble free tableting.

Example 8Preparation of Tablets Containing Metformin(2:1) Succinate and Glipizide

- 5           Tablets of the following formulations were prepared as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) succinate	600.0 mg
10	Glipizide	5.0 mg
	Microcrystalline cellulose NF	80.0 mg
	Croscarmellose sodium NF	45.0 mg
	Hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose (5 cps) USP	15.0 mg
15	Magnesium Stearate NF	8.0 mg

- 20           In a planetary mixer metformin (2:1) succinate and glipizide are blended with half the microcrystalline cellulose and with the croscarmellose sodium. The HPMC USP is dissolved in a suitable quantity of purified water and this mixture is used to wet granulate the drug-excipient mixture. The granules are dried in an oven at 60°C to a moisture content of 1.5-2.5% w/w. In a V-cone blender the granules are mixed with the remaining microcrystalline
- 25           cellulose and then with the magnesium stearate. The resulting mix is compressed into tablets using suitable capsule shaped tooling.

- 30           This formulation does not require introduction of additional moisture immediately prior to compression as is the case with metformin hydrochloride formulations in order to ensure trouble free tableting.

Example 9Preparation of Chewable Tablets Containing Metformin (2:1)  
Fumarate Salt

5 Chewable tablets of the following formulation are prepared as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) succinate	600.0 mg
10	Xylitol	450.0 mg
	Flavor, grape	0.5 mg
	Flavor, spice	0.5 mg
	Magnesium Stearate NF	10.0 mg

15 The metformin (2:1) fumarate is passed through a suitable wire mesh screen (600 micron aperture). The flavor ingredients are blended with the pre-screened xylitol and the resulting mix is added to the metformin (2:1) fumarate in a V-cone blender. The mixture is mixed  
20 for ten minutes. The magnesium stearate is added to the contents of the V-cone blender, passing the magnesium stearate through a 425 micron aperture screen. The mix is mixed for 5 minutes and compressed into flat faced bevel edged tablets using suitable tooling.

25

Example 10Preparation of Chewable Formulation of  
Metformin (2:1) Succinate Salt

30 Chewable tablets of the following formulation are prepared as described below.

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount per tablet (mg)</u>
	Metformin (2:1) succinate	600.0 mg
35	Xylitol	450.0 mg
	Flavor, raspberry	0.5 mg
	Magnesium Stearate NF	10.0 mg

The metformin (2:1) succinate is passed through a suitable wire mesh screen (600 micron aperture). The flavor ingredient is blended with the pre-screened xylitol and the resulting mix is added to the metformin (2:1) succinate in a V-cone blender. The mixture is mixed for ten minutes. The magnesium stearate is added to the contents of the V-cone blender, passing the magnesium stearate through a 425 micron aperture screen. The mix is mixed for 5 minutes and compressed into flat faced bevel edged tablets using suitable tooling.

#### Example 11

The following experiment was carried out to determine moisture sorption/desorption profiles of metformin (2:1) fumarate salt and metformin (2:1) succinate salt compared to the moisture uptake properties of metformin hydrochloride salt.

The procedure employed was as follows:

The hygroscopicity of metformin salts was assessed by Dynamic Vapour Sorption (DVS), a means of rapidly assessing sample moisture uptake properties. Approximately 5 mg of sample is placed on a suitable microbalance sample pan in a controlled temperature environment (held at 30°C) and which is suitably tared against a separate blank pan. Both chambers are subjected to a controlled program of incremental increase in RH from 0% to 95% by means of a moisture saturated air/dry nitrogen variable mixture gas stream. The weight increase of sample at each condition is recorded until a defined minimal rate of mass change is reached or a specified time period for equilibrium exceeded. A reverse cycle from 95% to 0% is performed immediately, allowing an absorption and desorption profile to be generated and from which the hygroscopicity was determined.

The following moisture uptake at 95% relative humidity/25°C is observed.

5	(1) metformin hydrochloride	<u>Time</u>	<u>% moisture uptake</u>
		30 min	1.2%
		70 min	3.3%
		3 hours	10.0%
		6 hours	20.1%
		(did not reach equilibrium)	
10	(2) metformin (2:1) fumarate	<u>Time</u>	<u>% moisture uptake</u>
		30 min	1.0%
		70 min	2.0%
		3 hours	4.1%
		6 hours	6.6%
		(did not reach equilibrium)	
15	(3) metformin (2:1) succinate	<u>Time</u>	<u>% moisture uptake</u>
		30 min	0.27%
		(reached equilibrium)	
20			

In summary, the degree of moisture uptake for the salts tested were found to occur in the following rank order:

- 25
- (1) metformin hydrochloride salt: 20% moisture content after 6 hours at 95% relative humidity at 25°C
- 30
- (2) metformin (2:1) fumarate salt: 6.6% moisture after 6 hours at 95% relative humidity at 25°C

(3) metformin (2:1) succinate: 0.27% equilibrium  
moisture content after  
30 minutes at 95%  
relative humidity  
at 25°C.

From the above results, it is seen that metformin  
hydrochloride salt absorbs substantially greater amounts of  
moisture as compared to the metformin (2:1) fumarate salt  
of the invention and the metformin (2:1) succinate salt of  
the invention. Accordingly, the metformin (2:1) salts of  
the invention will have improved handling properties during  
tabletting as compared to the metformin hydrochloride salt.

What is claimed is :

1. A metformin salt of a dibasic acid in a molar ratio of 2 moles metformin to 1 mole dibasic acid.
2. The metformin salt as defined in claim 1 wherein the dibasic acid is a  
5 dibasic organic carboxylic acid.
3. The metformin salt as defined in claim 1 which is metformin (2:1) fumarate.
4. The metformin salt as defined in claim 1 which is metformin (2:1) succinate.
- 10 5. The metformin salt as defined in claim 1 which is metformin (2:1) malate.
6. The metformin salt as defined in claim 1 which is in the form of free flowing powder or crystals.
7. A metformin salt of a dibasic acid, said salt having a solubility in  
15 water (mg/ml) at ambient temperature of less than 150 mg/ml, wherein the molar ratio of metformin:dibasic acid is 2:1 and wherein the metformin salt is metformin fumarate or metformin succinate.
8. A metformin salt of a dibasic acid, said salt being in the form of free  
20 flowing granules having a hygroscopicity measured at 95% relative humidity, 20° of less than 7% moisture uptake at 6 hours, wherein the molar ratio of metformin:dibasic acid is 2:1 and wherein the metformin salt is metformin fumarate or metformin succinate.
9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a metformin salt as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.
- 25 10. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 9 in the form of a tablet or capsule and the metformin salt is metformin fumarate or metformin succinate.



11. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 9 further comprising another antihyperglycemic agent.

12. The pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 11 wherein the other antihyperglycemic agent is glyburide or glipizide.

5 13. A combination of a metformin salt of a dibasic acid in a molar ratio of 2 moles metformin to 1 mole dibasic acid, and another antihyperglycemic agent.

14. The combination as defined in claims 13 wherein the metformin salt is metformin (2:1) fumarate or metformin (2:1) succinate.

10 15. The combination as defined in claim 13 wherein the other antihyperglycemic agent is a sulfonyl urea, a glucosidase inhibitor, a thiazolidinedione, a GLP-1 peptide, and/or insulin.

16. The combination as defined in claim 15 wherein the antihyperglycemic agent is glyburide, glipizide, glimepiride, acarbose, miglitol, troglitazone or insulin.

15 17. The combination as defined in claim 13 which is metformin (2:1) fumarate or metformin (2:1) succinate, and glyburide or glipizide.

18. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a metformin salt as defined in claim 1 for treating hyperglycemia.

19. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a metformin salt as  
20 defined in claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating hyperglycemia.

20. Use as claimed in claim 18 or 19 wherein the metformin salt is used with a therapeutically effective amount of another antihyperglycemic agent.

21. Use as claimed in claim 20 wherein the other antihyperglycemic agent is glyburide or glipizide.