

## **INDEPENDENT CLAIMS:**

1) A method for treating a human patient afflicted with an autoimmune disorder characterized by chronic inflammatory tissue degeneration, the method consisting essentially of the steps of:

introducing a saliva-soluble dosage form of interferon into the mouth of the patient,

allowing the solid dosage form to dissolve in the mouth to form an interferon-containing solution, and

contacting the interferon-containing solution with the oral and pharyngeal mucosa; wherein the interferon is administered to the patient in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 IU interferon per pound of patient body weight per day.

2) A method for treating a human patient afflicted with an autoimmune disorder characterized by chronic inflammatory tissue degeneration, the method comprising the steps of:

introducing a saliva-soluble dosage form of interferon into the mouth of the patient,

allowing the solid dosage form to dissolve in the mouth to form an interferon-containing solution, and

contacting the interferon-containing solution with the oral and pharyngeal mucosa; wherein the interferon is administered to the patient in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 IU interferon per pound of patient body weight per day.