

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS:

1) A method for treating a human patient suffering from fibromyalgia to produce a therapeutic response in said patient, said method comprising the step of administering interferon buccally, sublingually, or by oral ingestion at a dose of about 1 to about 1500 IU of interferon per day, provided that the patient is not infected with hepatitis C virus.

2) A method for treating a human patient suffering from fibromyalgia to alleviate one or more clinical symptoms of that disease, said method comprising the steps of

selecting a saliva-soluble lozenge dosage form of interferon-alpha,

introducing the lozenge dosage form of interferon-alpha into the mouth of the patient,

allowing the lozenge dosage form to dissolve in the patient's mouth to form an interferon-containing solution, and

contacting the interferon-containing solution with the patient's oral and pharyngeal mucosa to stimulate a therapeutic effect,

wherein the interferon-alpha is administered to the patient in an amount of about 1 to about 1500 IU interferon per day, and provided that the patient is not infected with hepatitis C virus.

3) A method for treating a human patient suffering from fibromyalgia to alleviate one or more clinical symptoms of that disease, said method comprising the step of contacting a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid formulation of interferon-alpha with the patient's oral and pharyngeal mucosa to stimulate a systemic therapeutic effect, wherein the interferon-alpha is administered to the patient in an amount of about 1 to about 1500 IU interferon per day, provided that the patient is not infected with hepatitis C virus.