

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A sustained-release preparation comprising pioglitazone or a salt thereof, polyethylene oxide and a gel forming promoter,

which has a dissolution rate of pioglitazone averaging 25-58% at the 2-hour time point, and averaging 60-100% at the 4-hour time point, in a dissolution test according to the 50 rpm USP Paddle Method and using pH 2.0 KCl/HCl buffer at 37°C as a test solution, wherein the polyethylene oxide is

1) contained such that a product of the weight average molecular weight $\times 1/10000$ and the content (%) of polyethylene oxide in the preparation is from $(7 \times M + 1500)$ to $(14.5 \times M + 5410)$, wherein M shows a value calculated by a weight average molecular weight of polyethylene oxide $\times 1/10000$ when one kind of polyethylene oxide is used; or

2) contained such that a product of the weight average molecular weight $\times 1/10000$ and the content (%) of polyethylene oxide having the highest average molecular weight among the polyethylene oxides used in the preparation is from $(14 \times M - 300)$ to $(17 \times M + 7700)$, wherein M shows a value calculated by a weight average molecular weight of polyethylene oxide having the highest average molecular weight $\times 1/10000$ when two or more kinds of polyethylene oxides having different average molecular weights are used, and

wherein the sustained-release preparation contains 0.05-20 wt% pioglitazone or a salt thereof, 10-90 wt% polyethylene oxide and 2.5-80 wt% gel forming promoter, and

wherein the sustained-release preparation delays onset or suppresses progression of Alzheimer's disease.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], wherein the gel forming promoter is a water-soluble hydrophilic base or water-insoluble hydrophilic base.

11. (Original) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 10, wherein the water-soluble hydrophilic base is one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from lactose, glucose, mannitol and trehalose, and the water-insoluble hydrophilic base is one kind or a combination of two or more kinds selected from starch, partially pregelatinized starch, crospovidone, crystalline cellulose, carmellose calcium and carmellose.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], which is a tablet.

13. (Original) The sustained-release preparation according to claim 12, which has a tablet weight of 60 - 600 mg.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], wherein the pioglitazone or a salt thereof is pioglitazone hydrochloride.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], wherein the pioglitazone or a salt thereof has an average particle size of 1 to 25 μm .

16-17. (Canceled)

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method of delaying onset or suppressing progression of Alzheimer's disease, comprising orally administering the sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]] to a subject in need of the administration thereof.

19. (Canceled)

20. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], comprising 0.1 - 8 mg of pioglitazone; or a salt of pioglitazone corresponding to 0.1 - 8 mg as pioglitazone.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The sustained-release preparation according to ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 7[[-9]], comprising 0.1 mg, 0.3 mg, 0.5 mg, 0.8 mg, 2.8 mg or 5.2 mg of pioglitazone; or a salt of pioglitazone corresponding to 0.1 mg, 0.3 mg, 0.5 mg, 0.8 mg, 2.8 mg or 5.2 mg as pioglitazone.

22-24. (Canceled)