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<p>(54) Title: MEDICINAL FORMULATIONS CONTAINING AN OPIOID AND AN α-ANTAGONIST (54) Bezeichnung: ARZNEIFORMULIERUNGEN ENTHALTEND EIN OPIOID UND EINEN α-AGONISTEN (57) Abstract The invention relates to medicinal formulations containing an opioid, an α-antagonist and/or their physiologically compatible salts, from which at least one medicinal active ingredient is released in a sustained manner. (57) Zusammenfassung Die Erfindung betrifft Arzneiformulierungen enthaltend ein Opioid, einen α-Agonisten und/oder jeweils dessen physiologisch verträgliches Salz, aus denen wenigstens ein Arzneimittelwirkstoff verzögert freigesetzt wird.</p>		

**Pharmaceutical formulations containing an opioid and an
 α -agonist**

This invention relates to pharmaceutical formulations

5 containing an opioid, an α -agonist and/or in each case the
physiologically compatible salt thereof, from which
formulations at least one pharmaceutical active substance
is released in delayed manner.

10 Due to their strong analgesic action, opioids are used for
alleviating moderately severe and severe acute pain. One
major disadvantage of using opioids, however, resides in
the severe side-effects associated therewith. Side-effects
on the gastrointestinal tract, such as for example severe
15 constipation, thus frequently occur. They moreover cause
respiratory depression and, on repeated administration,
dependency, which may result in abuse. A further
disadvantage is the rapid development of tolerance.

20 It is known to administer opioids and α -agonists as single
preparations using various pharmaceutical formulations. In
addition to known non-controlled release systems, there are
also controlled release systems with opioids, such as
described in WO 95/14460 or EP-A-0 647 448, in which, *inter*
25 *alia*, butyrates, ketobemidone, codeine and the like are
used. EP-B-0 271 193 discloses a controlled release system
using solely hydromorphone. Controlled release systems with
 α -agonists are disclosed in EP-A-0 805 677 or US 5,484,607.
In both cases, clonidine is used as the only α -agonist.

30

The object of the present invention was accordingly to
provide a pharmaceutical formulation which is suitable for

treating severe to very severe pain and which does not exhibit the typical side-effects of opioids and which in particular very considerably delays or completely prevents the development of opioid tolerance or provides an alternative to the prior art.

In accordance with an embodiment of the invention, there is provided a
5 pharmaceutical formulation comprising an opioid, an α -agonist and/or in each case the physiologically compatible salt thereof, from which formulation at least one pharmaceutical active substance is released in a delayed manner.

It is preferably the opioid which is released from the pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention in delayed manner.

10 Delayed release of the opioid preferably proceeds over a period of 8 hours, particularly preferably of 12 hours and very particularly preferably over 24 hours.

It is likewise preferred for both the pharmaceutical active substances to be released from the pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention in delayed manner.

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention preferably contains
15 morphine, hydromorphone, codeine, oxycodone, dihydrocodeine, dextropropoxyphene, buprenorphine, levomethadone, fentanyl, sufentanil, etorphine, pentazocine, tilidine, tramadol, levorphanol, methadone, dihydromorphine, pethidine, piritramide or a physiologically compatible salt of the stated opioids as the opioid.

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention particularly preferably contains morphine, tramadol and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof as the opioids.

5

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention preferably contains clonidine, guanfacine, guanabenz, lofexidine, adrenaline, methyldopa, noradrenaline, methoxamine, oxymetazoline, xylometazoline, teryzoline, 10 ST-91, medetomidine, dexmedetomidine, agmatine, UK14,304, para-aminoclonidine, U-47,476A, DJ-741, ICI-106270, xylazine, talipexole (BHT-920), naphazoline, tizanidine and/or a physiologically compatible salt of the stated α -agonists as the α -agonist.

15

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention particularly preferably contains clonidine, guanfacine and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof as the α -agonist.

20

Very particularly preferably, the pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention contains morphine and/or tramadol as the opioid and clonidine as the α -agonist and/or in each case the physiologically compatible 25 salt thereof.

Physiologically compatible salts of the active substances which are preferably used are acetates, tartrates, sulfates, hydrochlorides, phosphates and additionally 30 salicylates and acetylsalicylates for the group of opioids.

The weight ratio of the opioid to the α -agonist in the pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention is preferably 200:1 to 10:1. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the weight ratio of the opioid to the α -agonist is 100:1 to 10:1.

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention is preferably administered orally. Preferred oral pharmaceutical formulations are tablets, sugar-coated tablets or capsules, particularly preferably tablets, very particularly preferably multilayer tablets.

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention may also be in multiparticulate form, such as for example in the form of microtablets, microcapsules, ion exchange resins, granules, active substance crystals or pellets. The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention may preferably also assume the form of a pellet tablet which disintegrates particularly quickly.

Controlled release of the particular active substances may preferably be achieved by a controlled release coating, immobilisation on an ion exchange resin, embedding in a controlled release matrix or a combination thereof.

Controlled release is preferably achieved by means of controlled release coatings. Suitable controlled release coatings include water-insoluble waxes or polymers, such as for example acrylic resins, preferably poly(meth)acrylates, or water-insoluble celluloses, preferably ethylcellulose. These materials are known from the prior art, for example Bauer, Lehmann, Osterwald, Rothgang, "Überzogene

Arzneiformen", Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Stuttgart, 1988, pp. 69 et seq.. They are hereby included by reference.

5 In addition to the water-insoluble polymers, the controlled release coatings may, in order to establish the rate of release of the active substance, also contain polymers, preferably water-soluble polymers, which do not delay release in quantities of up to 30 wt.%, such as polyvinyl-
10 pyrrolidone or water-soluble celluloses, preferably hydroxypropylmethylcellulose or hydroxypropylcellulose, and/or hydrophilic pore formers, such as sucrose, sodium chloride or mannitol and/or known plasticisers.

15 Another conventional method for achieving controlled release is immobilisation of the active substances on ion exchange resins. Colestyramine is preferably used as an anionic ion exchange resin, while polystyrene sulfonates are preferably used as cationic ionic exchange resins.

20

For the purposes of controlled release, the active substances may also be present in a controlled release matrix, preferably uniformly distributed therein.

25 Physiologically compatible, hydrophilic materials, which are known to the person skilled in the art, may be used as matrix materials. Hydrophilic matrix materials which are used are preferably polymers, particularly preferably cellulose ethers, cellulose esters and/or acrylic resins.
30 Very particularly preferably used matrix materials are ethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose,

poly(meth)acrylic acid and/or the derivatives thereof, such as the salts, amides or esters thereof.

Matrix materials prepared from hydrophobic materials, such as hydrophobic polymers, waxes, fats, long-chain fatty acids, fatty alcohols or corresponding esters or ethers or mixtures thereof are also preferred. Particularly preferably used hydrophobic materials are mono- or diglycerides of C12-C30 fatty acids and/or C12-C30 fatty alcohols and/or waxes or mixtures thereof.

It is also possible to use mixtures of the stated hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials as a controlled release matrix material.

15

In another preferred embodiment, the controlled release pharmaceutical formulations may also contain both active substances in controlled release form.

The pharmaceutical formulation according to the invention may also contain at least one of the active substances in controlled release form as well as in non-controlled release form. Combination with the immediately released active substance means that it is possible to achieve an elevated initial dose to alleviate pain rapidly. Slow release from the controlled release form then prevents the analgesic action from declining. Release of the active substances should particularly preferably be adjusted such that the controlled release pharmaceutical formulation need be administered at most twice, preferably just once daily. The person skilled in the art knows, on the basis of the action of the analgesics, the mixing ratios in which they

should be used in order to achieve the desired release of the active substances.

The pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention
5 may moreover comprise still further coatings. Further
coatings which may be present are those with pH-dependent
dissolution behaviour. It is thus possible to ensure that
the sub-units pass through the stomach in undissolved form
and are released only once they reach the intestine.
10 Coatings which serve to improve taste may also be used.

The pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention
may be produced in accordance with various methods known to
the person skilled in the art, tablets, for example, being
15 produced by conventional processes such as for example by
extrusion, accretion agglomeration, wet granulation,
fluidised bed processes, dry mixing or compression moulding
processes. In the event that the pharmaceutical formulation
according to the invention, such as for example tablets,
20 comprises coatings, these may be applied by conventional
processes, such as for example sugar-coating, spray-
application of solutions, dispersions or suspensions, by
melt processes or by powder application processes.

25 The quantity of active substance to be administered depends
upon the active substances to be used and upon the route of
administration. For oral administration, clonidine, for
example, is preferably used in a quantity of between 1 μg
and 500 μg , particularly preferably between 10 μg and 50
30 μg , in each case relative to the base, and guanfacine is
preferably used in a quantity of between 5 μg and 900 μg ,
particularly preferably between 100 μg and 500 μg , in each
case relative to the base.

In the case of oral administration of the combination to be used, morphine, for example, is preferably used in a quantity of between 0.1 mg and 20 mg, particularly
5 preferably in a quantity of between 0.5 mg and 5 mg, in each case relative to the base, and tramadol is preferably used in a quantity of between 1 mg and 50 mg, particularly preferably in a quantity of between 1 mg and 20 mg, in each case relative to the base.

10

The pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention are preferably administered orally, parenterally or transdermally, particularly preferably orally.

15 Transdermal controlled release formulations may, for example, be produced in the form of dressings having one or more active substance matrices or one or more active substance reservoirs and a control membrane.

20 Apart from an opioid, an α -agonist and/or in each case the physiologically compatible salt thereof, the pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention may contain further pharmaceutical active substances and/or auxiliary substances. The pharmaceutical auxiliary substances
25 preferably comprise binders, extenders, lubricants, excipients, disintegration promoters, solvents, diluents, dyes, controlled release auxiliary substances and/or mixtures thereof. Selection of the auxiliary substances and the quantities thereof to be used are determined by whether
30 the controlled release dosage forms according to the invention are used orally, parenterally or transdermally.

The term "extenders" is taken to mean, *inter alia*, starch, microcrystalline cellulose, dextrose, mannitol or mixtures thereof.

- 5 Binders which may preferably be used are hydroxypropyl-methylcelluloses, polyvinylpyrrolidines, hydroxypropyl-celluloses, starch paste or mixtures thereof.

Disintegration promoters which are preferably used are
10 hydroxypropylcelluloses having a low degree of substitution, crosspovidones, crosscarmelloses, starches, pectins, alginates, surfactants or mixtures thereof.

Examples from the group of usable lubricants which may be
15 mentioned are magnesium stearate, stearic acid, calcium stearate, fatty alcohols or mixtures thereof.

The present invention also provides the use of the pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention for
20 combating moderately severe to very severe pain.

In comparison with using an opioid alone, the pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention exhibit a marked enhancement of analgesic action. This
25 means that the quantity of opioid used may be distinctly reduced while the same analgesic action is achieved. Furthermore, the potential for opioid dependency and the constipating action of opioids may be distinctly reduced in comparison with using an opioid alone.

30

This reduction in side-effects is still further enhanced because, due to the delayed release, only a relatively

small quantity of the active substances is released at any one time.

One particular advantage of the controlled release
5 pharmaceutical formulations according to the invention is that the development of tolerance to the opioid is greatly delayed or completely avoided.

The following Examples are intended to illustrate the
10 invention, but do not restrict the general concept of the invention.

Examples

Granulation was performed in a Lödiger FM 5 high-speed mixer and tablets were produced using a Fette eccentric
5 press.

For the purposes of the present invention, the term "PVP" should be taken to mean polyvinylpyrrolidones.

10 For the purposes of the present invention, the term "morphine HCl" means morphine HCl trihydrate.

For the purposes of the present invention, the term "tramadol HCl" means tramadol HCl trihydrate.

15

The term "min" means minutes.

The term "rpm" means revolutions per minute.

20 **Example 1**

Production of two-layer tablets with controlled release opioid and non-controlled release α -agonist

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Morphine HCl	5.00
Clonidine HCl	0.30
Lactose	72.70
Hydroxyethylcellulose	11.00
Cetostearyl alcohol	33.00
Talcum	1.00
Maize starch	7.50
PVP 30	2.00
PVP Cl	2.00
Magnesium stearate	0.88
Total	135.88

The two-layer tablets produced consisted of a controlled release layer containing the active substance morphine HCl and a non-controlled release layer containing the active substance clonidine. The controlled release granules were produced by processing morphine HCl, a proportion of the lactose, hydroxyethylcellulose and cetostearyl alcohol in a suitable mixer. The mixture was heated to 80°C and granulated. After cooling, the granules were screened and mixed with magnesium stearate and talcum.

The non-controlled release granules were produced by granulating the remaining lactose and maize starch with a solution of clonidine HCl, PVP 30 and purified water in a suitable mixer. Magnesium stearate and PVP Cl were mixed into the dried granules. Both types of granules were compression moulded to form the two-layer tablets.

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric

acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the two layer tablet provided the following release profile over a period of 480 min (mean, n = 6).

5 - Release of morphine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	31.5
60	44.9
180	80.1
300	97.4
480	100

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
5	53.3
10	94.9
15	100
30	100
60	100

Example 2

Production of two-layer tablets with controlled release opioid and non-controlled release α -agonist

5

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Morphine HCl	5.00
Clonidine HCl	0.10
Lactose	72.90
Hydroxyethylcellulose	11.00
Cetostearyl alcohol	33.00
Talcum	1.00
Maize starch	7.50
PVP 30	2.00
PVP Cl	2.00
Magnesium stearate	0.88
Total	135.88

The two-layer tablets produced consisted of a controlled release layer containing the active substance morphine HCl and a non-controlled release layer containing the active substance clonidine.

The controlled release granules were produced by processing morphine HCl, a proportion of the lactose, hydroxyethyl-cellulose and cetostearyl alcohol in a suitable mixer. The mixture was heated to 80°C and granulated. After cooling, the granules were screened and mixed with magnesium stearate and talcum.

The non-controlled release granules were produced by granulating the remaining lactose and maize starch with a

solution of clonidine HCl, PVP 30 and purified water in a suitable mixer. Magnesium stearate and PVP Cl were mixed into the dried granules. Both types of granules were compression moulded to form the two-layer tablets.

5

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the two layer tablet provided the following release profile

10 over a period of 480 min (mean, n = 6).

- Release of morphine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	30.5
60	46.3
180	79.4
300	95.2
480	100

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
5	62.7
10	93.4
15	100
30	100
60	100

15

Example 3

Production of two-layer tablets with controlled release opioid and controlled release α -agonist

5

The two-layer tablets produced consisted of a controlled release layer with the active substance tramadol HCl and another controlled release layer containing the active substance clonidine HCl.

10

- Production of the first layer with tramadol HCl.

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Tramadol HCl	50.00
Methylhydroxypropylcellulose 100000 mPa*s	80.00
Highly disperse silicon dioxide	3.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Magnesium stearate	3.00
Total	260.00

Tramadol HCl was mixed with microcrystalline cellulose, methylhydroxypropylcellulose, a proportion of the highly disperse silicon dioxide and magnesium stearate and precompressed to form tablets. The broken tablets were then screened, mixed with the remaining magnesium stearate and highly disperse silicon dioxide.

20

- Production of the second layer with clonidine HCl.

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Clonidine HCl	0.30
Lactose	20.00
Hydroxyethylcellulose	11.00
Cetostearyl alcohol	33.00
Talcum	1.00
Magnesium stearate	0.70
Total	71.00

The lactose and hydroxyethylcellulose were initially
5 introduced into a suitable mixer and mixed. The mixture was
thoroughly moistened with a solution of clonidine HCl in
water. After drying, the mixture was mixed with cetostearyl
alcohol, heated to 80°C and then granulated. The cooled
granules were screened, combined with talcum and magnesium
10 stearate and the two types of granules were compression
moulded to form two-layer tablets.

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer
apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric
15 acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the
two layer tablet provided the following release profile
over a period of 600 min (mean, n = 6).

- Release of tramadol HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	19.44
60	30.20
180	56.51
300	73.29
480	89.45
600	96.70

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	32.7
60	44.4
180	78.4
300	90.8
480	100
600	100

5 Example 4

Production of a two-layer tablet with controlled release opioid and α -agonist

- 10 The two-layer tablets produced consisted of a controlled release layer with the active substance tramadol HCl and another controlled release layer containing the active substance clonidine HCl.

- Production of the first layer with tramadol HCl.

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Tramadol HCl	50.00
Methylhydroxypropylcellulose 100000 mPa*s	80.00
Highly disperse silicon dioxide	3.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	124.00
Magnesium stearate	3.00
Total	260.00

Tramadol HCl was mixed with microcrystalline cellulose,
5 methylhydroxypropylcellulose, a proportion of the highly
disperse silicon dioxide and magnesium stearate and
precompressed to form tablets. The broken tablets were then
screened, mixed with the remaining magnesium stearate and
highly disperse silicon dioxide.

10

- Production of the second layer with clonidine HCl.

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Clonidine HCl	0.15
Lactose	20.15
Hydroxyethylcellulose	11.00
Cetostearylcellulose	33.00
Talcum	1.00
Magnesium stearate	0.70
Total	71.00

The lactose and hydroxyethylcellulose were initially
15 introduced into a suitable mixer and mixed. The mixture was
thoroughly moistened with an aqueous solution of clonidine

HCl. After drying, the mixture was mixed with cetostearyl-cellulose, heated to 80°C and then granulated. The cooled granules were screened, mixed with talcum and magnesium stearate and the two types of granules were compression
5 moulded to form two-layer tablets.

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the
10 two layer tablet provided the following release profile over a period of 600 min (mean, n = 6).

- Release of tramadol HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	20.3
60	30.8
180	57.3
300	74.7
480	90.2
600	98.1

15 - Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	33.4
60	46.1
180	80.2
300	92.7
480	100
600	100

Example 5

Production of various pellet pharmaceutical formulations

- 5 5.1 Rapid release active substance absorbed on a controlled release pellet

The active substance clonidine was applied as the α -agonist onto a controlled release morphine pellet using a suitable
10 lacquer coating unit. The pellets produced were packaged in capsules or compression moulded to form tablets.

The constituents of the controlled release pellets contained:

15

Constituent	Quantity per capsule in mg
Morphine sulfate	10.00
Lactose	2.00
Sucrose and maize starch microgranules USP 23-NF18	10.00
Polyethylene glycol 4000	2.50
Ethylcellulose	3.00
Talcum	0.15
Dibutyl sebacate	0.70
Total	26.35

Neutral starter nuclei were placed in the lacquer coating unit and moistened with an ethanolic polyethylene glycol 4000 solution. A mixture of morphine sulfate and lactose
20 was repeatedly applied onto the moist nuclei and the nuclei dried. This operation was repeated until the morphine sulfate/lactose mixture had been completely applied.

A suspension of clonidine HCl, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, polyethylene glycol 4000 and propylene glycol was applied onto the morphine pellets
5 produced in this manner in a lacquer coating unit. The material applied was of the following composition:

Constituent	Quantity per capsule in mg
Clonidine HCl	0.30
Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	4.000
Polyethylene glycol 4000	1.00
Propylene glycol	0.33
Total	26.35

The total quantity per capsule was 31.98 mg.

10

In vitro release testing was performed in a rotating basket apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid and at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 100 rpm. Testing of the formulation provided the following release profile over
15 the period (mean, n = 6).

- Release of morphine sulfate

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
60	28.5
180	34.3
240	46.2
480	64.4
600	81.1
720	98.5

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
5	50.3
10	93.9
15	100
30	100
60	100

5.2 Mixed pellets in capsules

5 - Production of tramadol pellets

Constituent	Quantity per capsule in mg
Tramadol HCl	50.00
Hydroxypropylcellulose with a low degree of substitution	20.00
Microcrystalline cellulose	106.00
Calcium hydrogen phosphate	20.00
Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	4.00
Aquacoat (ethylcellulose)	20.00
Dibutyl sebacate	5.00
Total	225.00

Tramadol hydrochloride, microcrystalline cellulose, calcium hydrogen phosphate and the hydroxypropylcellulose with a low degree of substitution were thoroughly moistened with an aqueous solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and extruded through a 0.5 mm perforated disk in a Pharmatex 35 T extruder. The extrudate was rounded in a Spheromat, dried in a fluidised bed and then provided with a

controlled release coating of an aqueous dispersion of ethylcellulose and dibutyl sebacate.

- Production of clonidine pellets

5

Constituent	Quantity per capsule in mg
Clonidine HCl	0.30
Microcrystalline cellulose	120.00
Hydroxypropylcellulose with a low degree of substitution	20.00
Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose	4.00
Total	144.30

Microcrystalline cellulose and hydroxypropylcellulose with a low degree of substitution were thoroughly moistened with an aqueous solution of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose and clonidine HCl. The mixture was extruded through a 0.5 mm perforated disk in a Pharmatex 35 T extruder, rounded in a Spheromat and dried in a fluidised bed. The coated tramadol and clonidine pellets were packaged in capsules and compression moulded to form tablets.

15

In vitro release testing was performed in a rotating basket apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 100 rpm. Testing of the capsules provided the following release profile over the period (mean, n = 6).

20

- Release of tramadol HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
120	13.0
240	31.0
480	57.0
600	71.0
720	100

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
5	75.1
10	96.3
15	96.8
30	96.9
60	97.0

5 Example 6

The matrix tablet contained the following composition:

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Morphine HCl	5.00
Clonidine HCl	0.30
Lactose	20.00
Hydroxyethylcellulose	11.00
Cetostearyl alcohol	33.00
Talcum	1.00
Magnesium stearate	0.70
Total	71.00

Morphine HCl, lactose, hydroxyethylcellulose and cetostearyl alcohol were mixed. The mixture was thoroughly moistened with aqueous clonidine HCl. The resultant mixture was dried, then heated to 80°C and granulated. After 5 cooling, the granules were screened, mixed with magnesium stearate and tabletted.

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the 10 matrix tablet provided the following release profile over a period of 480 min (mean, n = 6).

- Release of morphine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	31.5
60	44.9
180	80.1
300	97.4
480	100

15

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	32.7
60	44.4
180	78.4
300	90.8
480	100

Example 7

Production of a matrix tablet with the following composition:

5

Constituent	Quantity per tablet in mg
Tramadol HCl	50.00
Clonidine HCl	0.20
Methylhydroxypropylcellulose, type 2208, 100000 mPa*s	85.00
Highly disperse silicon dioxide	5.00
Calcium hydrogen phosphate	155.80
Magnesium stearate	4.00
Total	300.00

The total quantity of starting materials was 200 g. The constituents were screened (0.63 mm), then mixed for 10 minutes in a small cube mixer and compression moulded in a
10 Korsch EK 0 eccentric tablet press to form tablets of a diameter of 10 mm with a radius of curvature of 8.5 mm and an average weight of 300 mg.

In vitro release testing was performed in a paddle stirrer
15 apparatus with a volume of 600 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid, at a pH of 1.2 and a speed of 75 rpm. Testing of the matrix tablet provided the following release profile over a period of 480 min (mean, n = 6).

- Release of tramadol HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	22.6
60	35.2
180	52.4
300	78.2
480	86.3

- Release of clonidine HCl

Time in min	Quantity released in %
0	0
30	23.2
60	36.8
180	51.3
300	79.2
480	87.7

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising an opioid, an α -agonist and/or in each case the physiologically compatible salt thereof, from which formulation at least one pharmaceutical active substance is released in a delayed manner.
- 5 2. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the opioid is released in a delayed manner.
3. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the opioid is released over a period of time selected from the group consisting of 8 hours, 12 hours and 24 hours.
- 10 4. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein both active substances are released in a delayed manner.
5. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the opioid is selected from the group consisting of morphine, hydromorphone, codeine, oxycodone, dihydrocodeine, dextropropoxyphene, buprenorphine, levomethadone, 15 fentanyl, sufentanil, etorphine, pentazocine, tilidine, tramadol, levorphanol, methadone, dihydromorphine, pethidine, piritramide and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof.
6. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 5, wherein morphine, tramadol and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof is present as the opioid.
7. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein 20 the α -agonist is selected from the group consisting of clonidine, guanfacine, guanabenz, lofexidine, adrenaline, methyldopa, noradrenaline, methoxamine, oxymetazoline, xylometazoline, teryzoline, ST-91, medetomidine, dexmedetomidine, agmatine, UK14, 304, para-aminoclonidine, U-47, 476A, DJ-741, ICI-106270, xylazine, talipexole (BHT-920), naphazoline, tizanidine and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof.
- 25 8. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 7, wherein clonidine, guanfacine and/or a physiologically compatible salt thereof is present as the α -agonist.
9. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the weight ratio of opioid to α -agonist is 200:1 to 10:1.
10. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 9, wherein the weight ratio 30 of opioid to α -agonist is 100:1 to 10:1.
11. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the formulation is in the form of a tablet, capsule or sugar-coated tablet.

12. A pharmaceutical formulation of claim 11, wherein the formulation is in the form of a multilayer tablet.

13. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the formulation is in a form selected from the group consisting of multiparticulate form, microtablets, microcapsules, ion exchange resins, granules, active substance crystals and pellets.

14. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein controlled release is achieved by a controlled release coating, immobilisation on an ion exchange resin, embedding in a controlled release matrix or a combination thereof.

15. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14, wherein the coating is based on a water-insoluble polymer or wax.

16. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 15, wherein a polyacrylic resin or cellulose derivative is used as the water-insoluble polymer.

17. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16, wherein the cellulose derivative is alkylcellulose.

18. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16, wherein ethylcellulose and/or a poly(meth)acrylate is used as the polymer.

19. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14, wherein the matrix comprises at least a polymer, a wax, a fat, a fatty acid, a fatty alcohol or a corresponding ester or ether.

20. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 19, wherein the polymers are selected from at least one of the group consisting of cellulose ethers, cellulose esters and acrylic resins.

21. A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14, wherein ethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, mono- and diglycerides of C12 to C30 fatty acids and/or C12-C30 fatty alcohols or the mixtures thereof are used as the matrix material.

22. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 21, wherein at least one of the pharmaceutical active substances is present in controlled release form and in non-controlled release form.

23. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 22, wherein the formulation is administered orally, parenterally or transdermally.

24. A pharmaceutical formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 23 for the treatment of moderately severe to severe acute or chronic pain states.

25. A pharmaceutical formulation substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the examples.

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