CLAIMS

1. A viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use in promoting haemostasis at a site of blood loss in a patient in need thereof wherein the viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition comprises an ionic precipitating agent selected from ferric chloride and an iron sulphate, inclusive of ferric subsulphate, a fatty alcohol, an alcohol phosphate diester and one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

2. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 1 wherein the ionic precipitating agent is present in the composition as Monsel's solution.

3. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 2 wherein the Monsel's solution includes from about 15% to about 25% w/v iron (III) ions.

4. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the fatty alcohol has between 10 to 22 carbon atoms.

5. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 4 wherein the fatty alcohol is selected from the group consisting of myristyl alcohol, pentadecyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, heptadecyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, nonadecyl alcohol and arachidyl alcohol.

6. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 5 wherein the fatty alcohol is a mix of cetyl and stearyl alcohols.

7. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 6 wherein the fatty alcohol is cetostearyl alcohol.

8. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is a diester phosphate of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol having from 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

9. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 8 wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is dicetylphosphate.

10. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

11. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 10 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is alkoxylated with from about 1 to about 50 moles of an alkylene oxide per mole of alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

12. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 11 wherein the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

13. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 10 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is ceteth-10 phosphate.

14. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprises a mixture of the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol and an alcohol phosphate diester of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

15. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprises an ionic precipitating agent, cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate.

16. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to claim 15 wherein the cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate comprise from 5% to 25% by weight of the composition.

17. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the alkoxyether phosphate comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

18. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition further comprises a local anaesthetic.

19. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the blood loss is caused by a surgical procedure selected from the group consisting of a curettage, colposcopy and biopsy or a dental procedure or uterine or haemorrhoidal bleeding.

20. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of claim 1 to claim 18 wherein the blood loss is caused by a physical trauma.

21. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition is administered from a unit dose or multi-dose container.

22. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition is part of a sterile or non sterile bandages, suppository, tampon, collagen pack, hydroxyapatite or hyaluronic acid polymer, or implantable device.

23. A viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition comprising (i) an ionic precipitating agent selected from the group consisting of ferric chloride and an iron sulphate, inclusive of ferric subsulphate; (ii) a fatty alcohol; (iii) an alcohol phosphate diester; and (iv) one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

24. The composition of claim 23 wherein the ferric subsulphate is present in the form of Monsel's solution.

25. The composition of claim 24 wherein the Monsel's solution includes from about 15% to about 25% w/v iron (III) ions.

26. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 25 wherein the fatty alcohol comprises between 10 to 22 carbon atoms.

27. The composition of claim 26 wherein the fatty alcohol is selected from the group consisting of myristyl alcohol, pentadecyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, heptadecyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, nonadecyl alcohol and arachidyl alcohol.

28. The composition of claim 27 wherein the fatty alcohol is a mix of cetyl and stearyl alcohols.

29. The composition of claim 28 wherein the fatty alcohol is cetostearyl alcohol.

30. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 29 wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is a diester phosphate of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol having from 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

31. The composition of claim 30 wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is dicetylphosphate.

32. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 31 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

33. The composition of claim 32 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is alkoxylated with from about 1 to about 50 moles of an alkylene oxide per mole of alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

34. The composition of claim 33 wherein the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

35. The composition of claim 34 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is ceteth-10 phosphate.

36. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 31 wherein the composition comprises a mixture of the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol and an alcohol phosphate diester of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

37. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 36 wherein the composition comprises an ionic precipitating agent comprising ferric subsulphate, cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate.

38. The composition of claim 37 wherein the cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate comprise from 5% to 25% by weight of the composition.

39. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 31 wherein the alkoxyether phosphate comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

40. The composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 39 wherein the composition further comprises a local anaesthetic.

41. A use of a viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition according to any one of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for the promotion of haemostasis at a site of blood loss in a patient.

42. A kit comprising the viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 40 and an applicator device.

43. A method of formulating the viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition of any one of claim 23 to claim 40 including the step of combining an ionic precipitating agent comprising a polyvalent metal ion selected from ferric chloride and an iron sulphate, inclusive of ferric subsulphate, with a fatty alcohol, an alcohol phosphate diester and one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.