IPOS SG 9701512-7

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : A61K 49/00, A61M 31/00, A61F 2/30, A61K 9/00 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/07434

(43) International Publication Date: 14 March 1996 (14.03.96)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB95/02109

(22) International Filing Date: 6 September 1995 (06.09.95)

(30) Priority Data:
9417941.3 6 September 1994 (06.09.94) GB

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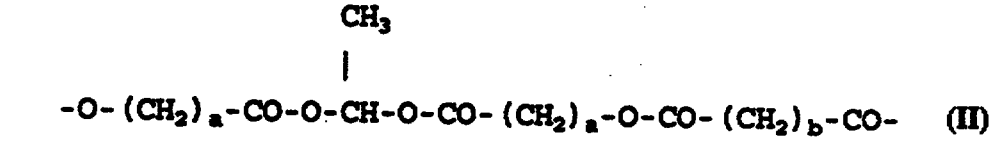
(81) Designated States: AM, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, EE, FI, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SD, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG).

Published
With international search report.
Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CONTRAST AGENTS

(57) Abstract

Contrast agents comprising gas-containing polymer microparticles and/or microballoons in which the polymer is a biodegradable polymer comprising repeating units of formula (II) (where a is an integer of 9-19 and b is an integer of 1-8) may be used in diagnostic applications such as ultrasound and MR imaging. The polymers are novel and are also claimed *per se*.



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