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(54) **Title:** CRYSTALS OF LAQUINIMOD SODIUM AND IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE THEREOF

(57) **Abstract:** The subject invention provides a mixture of crystalline laquinimod sodium particles, wherein (i) $\geq 90\%$ of the total amount by volume of the laquinimod sodium particles have a size of $\leq 40 \mu\text{m}$ or (ii) $\geq 50\%$ of the total amount by volume of the laquinimod sodium particles have a size of $\leq 15 \mu\text{m}$, and wherein: a) the mixture has a bulk density of 0.2-0.4 g/mL; b) the mixture has a tapped density of 0.40-0.7 g/mL; c) an amount of heavy metal in the mixture is no more than 20ppm relative to the amount by weight of laquinimod sodium; d) an amount of MCQ in the mixture is no more than 0.15% relative to the amount of laquinimod sodium as measured by HPLC; e) an amount of MCQCA in the mixture is no more than 0.15% relative to the amount of laquinimod sodium as measured by HPLC; or f) an amount of MCQME in the mixture is no more than 0.12% relative to the amount of laquinimod sodium as measured by HPLC. The subject invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising an amount of laquinimod and at least one of BH-3-HLAQ, MCQ, MCQCA, MCQME, NEA, and MCQEE. The subject invention also provides processes for preparing BH-3-HLAQ, MCQ, MCQCA, MCQME, MCQEE, and compounds prepared by said processes. Further provided is a process for testing whether a sample of laquinimod contains an undesirable impurity. Further provided is a process for preparing a validated pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod, for preparing a pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod, or for distributing a validated batch of a pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod, for validating a batch of a pharmaceutical product containing laquinimod and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier for distribution, and for preparing a packaged pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod, each comprising determining the amount of at least one of BH-3-HLAQ, MCQ, MCQCA, MCQME, NEA, and MCQEE in a sample or batch. The subject invention further provides use of BH-3-HLAQ, MCQ, MCQCA, MCQME, MCQEE as a reference standard to detect trace amounts of the impurity in a pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod. Finally, the subject invention provides methods of determining the concentration of BH-3-HLAQ, MCQ, MCQCA, MCQME, MCQEE, 5-HLAQ, SPIRO-LAQ or 3 H-LAQ in a pharmaceutical composition comprising laquinimod.