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(54) Title: CHELATING POLYMERS AS CONTRAST AGENTS FOR MEDICAL IMAGING

(57) Abstract

The invention provides polymeric polychelants containing polymer repeat units of the formula [L-Ch-L-B] (where Ch is a polydentate chelant moiety; L is an amide or ester linkage; B is a hydrophobic group providing a carbon chain of at least 4 carbon atoms between the L linkages it interconnects) or a salt or chelate thereof, with the proviso that where Ch is 2,5-biscarboxymethyl-2,5-diazahex-1,6-diyl, the polychelant is metallated with lanthanide or manganese ions or B provides a carbon chain of at least 10 carbon atoms between the L linkages it interconnects and their salts and chelates. The paramagnetic polychelates of the polychelants of the invention have remarkably high R_1 relaxivities.