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(54) **Title**: IMPROVED SKIN BRIGHTENING COMPOSITIONS

(57) **Abstract**: An improved cosmetic and dermatological composition and a method for treating hyperpigmented skin is disclosed. The composition demonstrates an ability to lighten mammalian skin color and is nonirritating. The composition contains (a) a retinoid loaded onto polymeric microparticles and (b) a second skin lightening agent, like kojic acid or a derivative thereof, such as kojic dipalmitate.