THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. An ocular lens comprising a hydrogel polymer comprising polymerised residues derived from a polymerisable UV absorber of formula (I):

U-L-Py (I)

wherein:

U is a UV absorbing moiety;

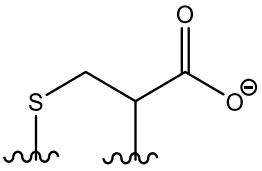
L is a hydrophilic non-polyalkylene glycol linker comprising an anionic, a zwitterionic or a saccharide moiety; and

Py is an ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable moiety.

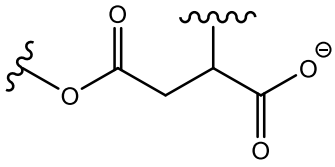
2. The ocular lens according to claim 1, wherein the linker (L) comprises at least 4 carbon atoms.

3. The ocular lens according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the linker (L) comprises a moiety selected from carboxylate, sulfonate, sulfate, phosphate, phosphonate, ammonium, and combinations thereof; and wherein the ammonium is part of the zwitterionic moiety.

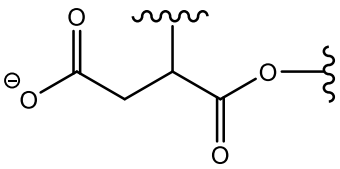
4. The ocular lens according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the linker (L) comprises a moiety selected from formulae (IIa), (IIb), (IIc), (IId) and (IIe):

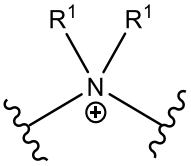


(IIa)

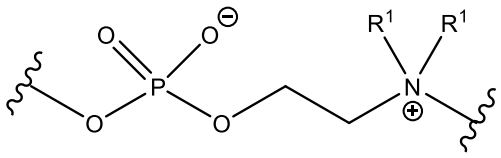


(IIb)





(IIc) (IId)

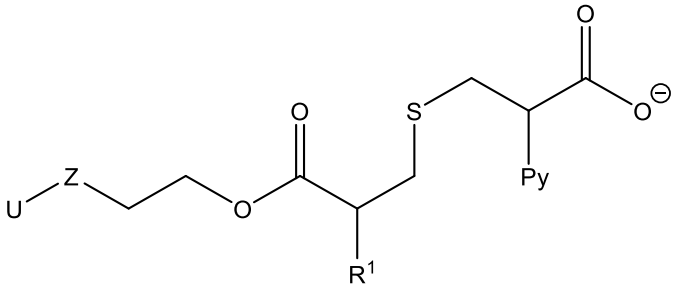


(IIe)

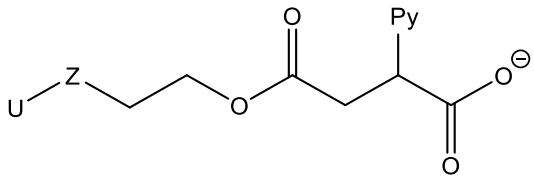
wherein R^1 at each occurrence is independently selected from H and C_1-C_4 alkyl, and ~~~ represents the remainder of the polymerisable UV absorber of formula (I); and

wherein the formula (IId) is part of the zwitterionic moiety.

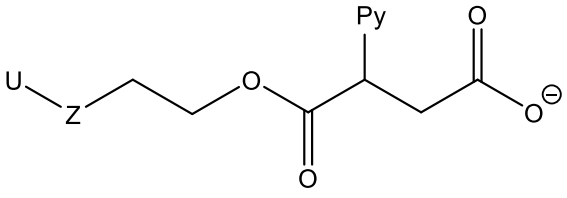
5. The ocular lens according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the formula (I) ~~linker (L)~~ has a structure selected from formulae (IIIa), (IIIb), (IIIc), and (IIId):



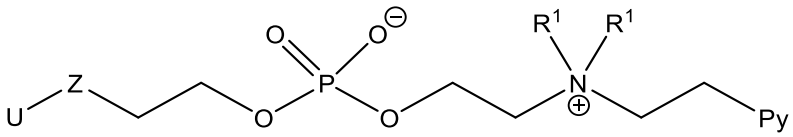
(IIIa)



(IIIb)



(IIIc)



(IIId)

wherein:

R^1 at each occurrence is independently selected from H and C_1-C_4 alkyl;

Z is absent or is a heteroatom;

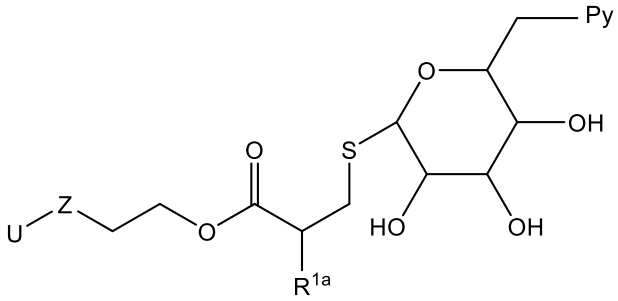
U is the UV absorbing moiety; and

Py is the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable moiety.

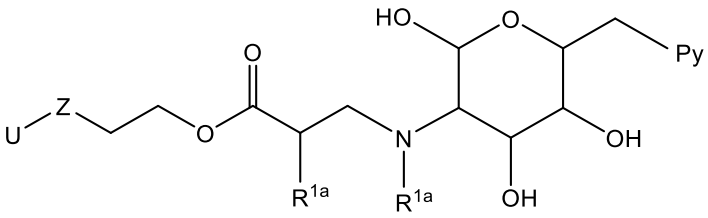
6. The ocular lens according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the linker (L) comprises a saccharide moiety selected from a furanose, pyranose and amino sugar moiety.

7. The ocular lens according to claim 6, wherein the linker (L) comprises a glucopyranose or glucosamine moiety.

8. The ocular lens according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the formula (I)~~linker (L)~~ has a structure selected from formulae (Xa) and (Xb):



(Xa)



(Xb)

wherein in formula (Xa) and (Xb):

R^{1a} at each occurrence is independently selected from H and C_1-C_4 alkyl;

Z is absent or is a heteroatom;

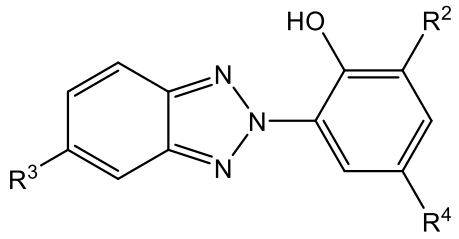
U is the UV absorbing moiety; and

Py is the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable moiety.

9. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the UV absorbing moiety (U) absorbs radiation in both the UV-A and UV-B range.

10. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the UV absorbing moiety (U) is a benzotriazole or benzophenone moiety.

11. The ocular lens according to claim 10, wherein the UV absorbing moiety (U) has a structure of formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein

R^2 is selected from the group H and C_1-C_5 alkyl;

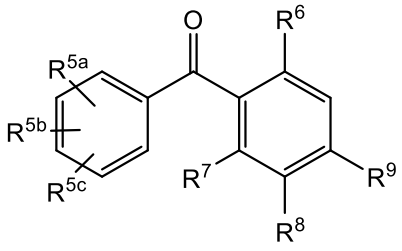
R^3 or R^4 represents an attachment point to the linker (L),

and wherein:

if R^3 is the attachment point to the linker (L), then R^4 is selected from H, alkyl and alkoxy; or

if R^4 is the attachment point to the linker (L), then R^3 is selected from H, halo, CF_3.

12. The ocular lens according to claim 10, wherein the UV absorbing moiety (U) has a structure of formula (V):



(V)

wherein

R^{5a}, R^{5b} and R^{5c} are each independently selected from the group consisting of H, halo, hydroxyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkoxy, carboxylate, sulfonate, C_6-C_{10} aryl, and substituted aryl groups;

R^6 and R^7 are each independently selected from H and OH with the proviso that R^6 and R^7 are not identical;

R^8 is selected from H and sulfonate; and

R^9 is the attachment point to the linker (L).

13. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated polymerisable moiety (Py) comprises a polymerisable functional group selected from allyl, vinyl, acryloyl, methacryloyl and styrenyl.

14. The ocular lens accordingly any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hydrogel polymer comprises polymerised residues derived from at least two different polymerisable UV absorbers, wherein at least one of the polymerisable UV absorbers is of formula (I).

15. The ocular lens according to claim 14, wherein the hydrogel polymer comprises from about 0.1 to about 10 wt% of polymerised residues derived from the polymerisable UV absorbers, based on the total weight of monomeric units.

16. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein in addition to the polymerised residues derived from the polymerisable UV absorber of formula (I), the hydrogel polymer comprises polymerised residues derived from an ethylenically unsaturated monomer selected from the group consisting of acryloyl monomers, methacryloyl monomers and combinations thereof.

17. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the hydrogel polymer comprises polymerised residues derived from an ethylenically unsaturated crosslinking agent.

18. The ocular lens according to any one of the preceding claims, which is a contact lens or an intraocular lens.