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ANTI-DIARRHEA COMPOSITIONS

The invention relates to anti-diarrhea compositions. Diarrhea is commonly treated either by administering an absorptive material, which absorbs pathogenic bacteria, digestive enzymes, toxins, and nutrients from the gastrointestinal tract; or by administering an oral electrolyte/sugar replacement fluid such as that recommended by the World Health Organization containing, per litre, 20g glucose, 90 mEq sodium, 30 mEq bicarbonate and 20 mEq potassium (Chatterjee et al (1978) Arch. Dis Child 53, 284).

10 The invention provides an anti-diarrhea composition containing diarrhea symptom-reducing amounts of a thermally activated, finely powdered, hydrous magnesium aluminium silicate clay belonging to the group of the attapulgites or to the group of the smectites as absorptive material
15 capable of absorbing pathogenic intestinal bacteria, a sodium salt, a potassium salt and a sugar.

The absorptive material is preferably also capable of absorbing diarrhea-associated viruses, intestinal toxins and gases. A number of suitable absorptive
20 materials are known. One such clay is known in its unactivated form as Smectite,

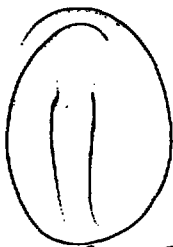
and has the formula $\text{Si}_8\text{Al}_4\text{O}_{20}\text{OH}_4$. Other such clays are argillaceous clays, for example the clay known in its unactivated form as mormoiron attapulgite further named ATTA under its activated form. This is also well-known as an anti-diarrhea absorptive material.

The electrolyte/sugar composition contains a potassium salt, a sodium salt, and a sugar.

Preferably, the two salts are sodium chloride and potassium chloride, and the sugar is glucose or dextrose. The composition preferably also contains a bicarbonate salt such as sodium bicarbonate.

Since the electrolyte/sugar is normally transported in a dehydrated, powdered state, it is preferred that some measure be taken to prevent moisture from causing solidification of the powder, which would interfere with fluid reconstitution. This can be achieved by enclosing the powdered material in a moisture-resistant package such as one of aluminium alloy, or by including a dessicating agent, or by treating the electrolyte/sugar in a way which inhibits moisture absorption, for example the crystal formation method described in United States Patent Specification No. 2642335. The latter two approaches offer the advantage of permitting the use of low-cost packaging, e.g., waxed paper, which is not





completely moisture-resistant. The electrolyte/sugar can be provided in the same package as the absorptive material or in a separate package. (In the case of separate packages moisture resistance is desirable for the absorptive material as well).

- 5 Generally, the absorptive material, the electrolytes and sugar are provided in amounts recognized as effective in the treatment of diarrhea. Each package is formulated to be reconstituted with 200 ml of water. The absorptive material is preferably provided in an amount such that, following reconstitution, it is present in a concentration of 2.5-15 g/l.
- 10 The electrolyte and sugar components are preferably provided in amounts such that, following reconstitution, they are present in the following concentration ranges : glucose : 10-30 g/l ; sodium : 60-120 mEq/l ; bicarbonate : 10-50 mEq/l ; potassium : 10-30 mEq/l.

In preferred embodiments, the composition also
15 contains a suspending agent capable of facilitating the suspension or homogeneous dispersion of the absorptive material in water ; in the absence of such an agent, clays such as Smectite tend to settle at the bottom of a container when combined with water, rendering homogeneous administration
20 difficult. The suspending agent may be, for example, a hydrocolloid (such as sodium carboxy methyl cellulose, xanthan gum, hydroxy propyl methyl cellulose, polyethylene glycol, a dextrin, gum karaya, gum tragacanth, gum acacia, gum guar or a polysaccharide), a polyol (such as glycerin, propylene glycol
25 or sorbitol) or a surfactant (such as dioctyl sulphossuccinate, polysorbate-40 or sorbitan monooleate).

The suspending agent is provided in the same package as the absorptive material, in an amount which, when the composition is reconstituted, is present at a concentration of
30 0.25-1.0 g/l, in the case of naturally occurring hydrocolloids such as xanthan gum, and 1.0-5.0 g/l, in the case of the other classes of agents. In some instances, more than one suspending agent can be used in conjunction.

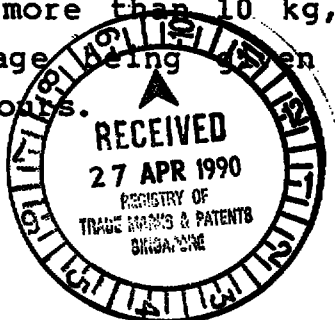
In addition to the components listed above, the compositions of the invention can also contain colouring, flavouring and sweetening agents.

In order to prepare a dry composition for packaging and reconstituting, the suspending agent or agents are first placed in mixing means, e.g., a P-K blender or cube blender. The absorptive material is then added, and mixing carried out for 10-20 minutes. The salts and sugar are then added, one at a time, and mixing carried out for an additional 10-20 minutes. Any desired additional ingredients are then added and mixed, and the dry composition enclosed, in amounts to be reconstituted to 200 ml, in sealed waxed paper, plastic, or foil packages.

As mentioned above, an additional previous step can be the crystallization water-resistance treatment of the salts, as described in United States Patent Specification No. 2642335.

In use individual packages are opened, mixed with measured amounts of water, and taken orally. The number of packages administered per day will depend on such factors as the age and body weight of the patient, and the severity of the diarrhea.

Generally, if a child weighs less than 5 kg, dosage is one package/day, with 1/2 package given initially, followed by 1/3 package every 8 hours. For children weighing between 5 and 10 kg, dosage is 1-2 packages per day, and for children weighing more than 10 kg, dosage is 2 packages per day, with one package being given initially, followed by 1/2 package every 6 hours.



Below are examples of compositions of the invention. Each is to be reconstituted in 200 ml of water. Composition 2 actually gives four slightly different formulas, A-D, while each of compositions 3 and 4 gives 10 different formulae, A-J. All units are in term of grams per package.

COMPOSITION 1

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Grams per Packet</u>
	Activated Smectite	1.0
	Sodium Chloride*	0.7
10	Potassium Chloride*	0.3
	Sodium Bicarbonate*	0.5
	Glucose Monohydrate*	4.0

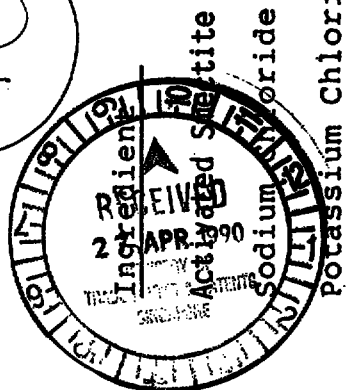
*Equivalent to 18 mEq Sodium/200 ml, 4 mEq Potassium per 200 ml, 6 mEq Bicarbonate 200 ml and 4.0 gm Glucose/200 ml.

COMPOSITION 2

		A	B	C	D
15	Activated Smectite	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	Sodium Chloride	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
	Potassium Chloride	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
	Sodium Bicarbonate	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
20	Glucose Monohydrate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	Xanthan Gum	-	-	-	0.05-0.2
	Hydroxy Propyl Methyl Cellulose	-	-	0.5-1.0	-
	4000 cps (Methocel)				
	Carbomer 934	-	0.2-0.5	-	-
25	Sodium Carboxy Methyl Cellulose	0.2-1.0	-	-	-

COMPOSITION 3

	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>
	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
	0.05 0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1
	-	0.05 2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	-
	-	-	0.5 2.0	-	0.5 2.0	-	0.79	-	-	0.5
	-	-	-	2.0	-	-	3.0	-	-	-
	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	-
	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	0.01	-
	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	0.05	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	1.0	0.1	-	-	0.5



Potassium Chloride

Sodium Bicarbonate

Glucose Monohydrate

Gum Karaya

Gum Guar

Acacia

Polyethylene Glycol 6000

Glycerin USP

Sodium Dioctylsulphosuccinate

Polysorbate-40

Maltodextrin

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COMPOSITION 4

Ingredient

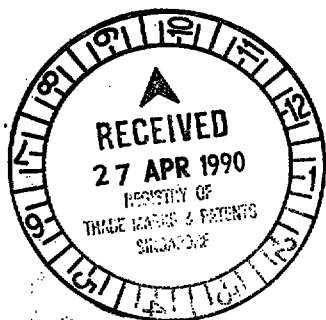
<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>
Activated Smectite	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Sodium Chloride	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Potassium Chloride	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Sodium Bicarbonate	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Glucose Monohydrate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Xanthan Gum	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-
Sodium GMC	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	-	-
Glycerin	-	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	0.5	-	0.5
Polyethylene glycol 6000	-	-	2.0	-	-	-	1.0	5.0	-
Maltodextrin	-	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	2.0	2.0
Cabosil M-5	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	-	-	-
Calcium Chloride	-	-	-	-	0.2	-	-	0.2	0.2
Sodium Benzoate	0.1	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1
Methocel 4000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.75
Gum Tragacanth	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.5	-	-

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COMPOSITION 5

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Weight/Package</u>	<u>% Weight/Package</u>
5	Sodium Citrate Dihydrate	0.60 g	8.16
	Potassium Chloride	0.30 g	4.08
	Sodium Chloride	0.66 g	8.98
	Dextrose Monohydrate	4.00 g	54.42
10	Xanthan Gum	0.10 g	1.36
	Maltodextrin	0.50 g	6.81
	Calcium Triphosphate	0.09 g	1.22
	Sodium Benzoate	0.10 g	1.36
	Activated Smectite	1.00 g	13.61
15		7.35 g	100.00



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The invention provides relief from the symptoms of diarrhea, while at the same time replenishing electrolytes, sugar, and fluid. Despite the simultaneous or near-simultaneous administration of the electrolyte/sugar and the absorptive material, the electrolytes and sugar are not absorbed to a deleterious degree by the absorptive material. Administration of both absorptive material and electrolyte/sugar is more effective in controlling diarrhea than the administration of electrolyte/sugar alone.

10 The electrolyte/sugar and absorptive compositions do not need to be admixed together prior to administration ; alternatively, the two can be administered separately, in immediate succession or within thirty minutes of each other. This method, like the method involving providing both compositions admixed together, is effective to both replace fluids and electrolytes, and absorb harmful gases, viruses, bacteria, and toxins, while avoiding deleterious absorption, by the absorptive material, of the beneficial electrolytes and sugar.

20 Sequential administration of a reconstituted electrolyte composition and powdered attapulgite was carried out on infant children, and shown to provide superior diarrhea symptom treatment, compared to electrolyte treatment alone, in the study described below.

25 100 children aged between 1 and 24 months and hospitalized for acute diarrhea requiring oral rehydration solution ("ORS") were divided into two groups of 50 patients each, balanced in terms of age and severity of symptomatology.

30 Children in group I received ORS only. Rehydration salts were presented in the form of envelopes for dissolution in one litre drinking water before use. The composition is

shown in the following table :

CONSTITUENTS	QUANTITY in g/l
Nacl	3.5
CO ₃ HNa	2.5
KCl	1.5
Glucose	20.0

MOLARITY

CONSTITUENTS	mmol/l IN WATER
Na	90
K	20
Cl	80
CO ₃ H	30
Glucose	111

Children in group II received this same solution, along with 1-2 envelopes/day containing 3 g attapulgate. Dosage varied with body weight as described earlier.

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Six treatment evaluation criteria were chosen :

1. The number of stools after 48 hours treatment,
2. The number of stools per 24 hours after 2 days treatment,
3. Daily weight gain,
4. Duration of treatment,
5. Frequency of relapse,
6. Side-effects, in particular, constipation.

Finally, cost of daily treatment was estimated.



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Analysis of the population studied

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- Distribution by sex : female : 51
male : 49
- Distribution by age : 2-12 months : 51
13-24 months : 49
- Concurrent symptomatology : fever : 26
vomiting : 48

The number of stools per day for each group prior to treatment is given in the following table.

Group	No. of stools	
	3 - 6	7 - 10
ORS	34 (68 %)	16 (32 %)
ORS + ATTA	44 (88 %)	6 (12 %)

10 Dosages

Dosages were as follows :

ORS : 1/4 to 1/2 litre for children younger than 6 months ;
1/2 to 1 litre for children between 6 and 24 months.

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Attapulgate : 1 envelope/day for children weighing less than
5 kg.
2 envelopes/day for children weighing more than
5 kg.

Results are given as a function of the evaluation criteria defined above.



Results

1) Characteristics of Stools after 48 hours treatment

Classification was as follows : absolutely liquid ; semi-liquid ; soft ; normal.

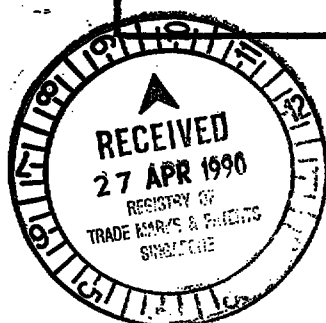
5 Results are shown in the following table :

	ORS (n = 50)		ORS + ATTA (n = 50)	
	No.	%	No.	%
Liquid stools	26	52	10	20
Semi-liquid stools	10	20	14	28
Soft stools	11	22	18	36
Normal stools	3	6	8	16

2) Number of stools per day after 48 hours treatment

The mean daily frequency of stools in both groups, upon admission and after 48 hours treatment, is given in the following table :

Product	MEAN NUMBER OF STOOLS/DAY	
	Upon admission	After 48 hours treatment
ORS	6	4
ORS + ATTA	6	3



After 48 hours treatment, 26 infants (52 %) in the ORS group still had very liquid stools. Such diarrhea no longer threatened the vital prognosis.

In the ORS + ATTA group, only 10 infants (20 %) still presented liquid stools. We also note complete normalization of stools in 3 cases in the ORS group (6 %) versus 8 cases (16 %) with the combination treatment. At the same time, there was a greater reduction in the frequency of stools in the group receiving the combination (3 stools/day, rather than 6) than in the ORS group (4 stools/day, rather than 6).

From these two parameters, it can be concluded that the reduction in water and electrolyte loss was clearly superior with ORS + Attapulgate than with ORS alone ; there is thus a reduction in the risk of deshydration. This combination also provides a certain degree of reassurance for the mothers.

3) Evolution of body weight curves over 48 hours

These results are given in the table below :

	0	+50-100g /day	+100-150g /day	+150-250g /day	+250-350g /day	LOSS
ORS	0	35	14	0	0	1
ORS + ATTA	2	3	18	25	2	0

There was regular weight gain in 49 of the children in the ORS group and 48 in the ORS + ATTA group. In the ORS

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group, only a single child with malnutrition showed an aggravation of diarrhea over the first 48 hours, with a loss of 50 g/day.

5 For the other children in the ORS group, there was constant and gradual weight gain, with a mean gain of 100-200 g/day and a rapid improvement in general status.

10 In the group treated with ORS + Attapulgate, diarrhea worsened in 2 malnourished children, but without further weight loss. In all others, weight gain was a mean 150-250 g/day, and in a few cases, 300 g or more.

In view of these results we can state that weight gain in both groups was satisfactory.

4) Duration of treatment

15 This was calculated as the time between the beginning of the treatment and normalization of digestive symptomatology. The results are given in the table below.

Number of days' treatment	ORS		ORS + ATTA	
3 days	3	6 %	8	16 %
4 days	6	12 %	38	76 %
5 days	13	26 %	4	8 %
6 days	28	56 %	0	-

In the ORS group, mean duration of treatment ranged between 5 and 6 days, while in the ORS + ATTA group, it ranged between 3 and 4 days.



There was thus a major difference between the required duration of treatment with ORS and with the combination. This yielded both an improvement in treatment, and the liberation of a number of hospital beds, of great importance in many situations.

The experimentation was repeated with the composition 5 on two groups of 10 patients with comparable results reported in the following tables :

. Characteristics of Stools after 48 hours treatment

	ORS (n = 50)		ORS + activated Smectite (n = 50)	
	No.	%	No.	%
Liquid stools	5	50	2	20
Semi-liquid stools	2	20	3	30
Soft stools	2	20	4	40
Normal stools	1	10	1	10

. Number of stools per day after 48 hours treatment

Product	MEAN NUMBER OF STOOLS/DAY	
	Upon admission	After 48 hours treatment
ORS	6	4
ORS + activated Smectite	6	3

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. Evolution of body weight curves over 48 hours

	0	+50-100g /day	+100-150g /day	+150-250g /day	+250-350g /day
ORS	1	7	2	0	0
ORS + activated Smectite	0	1	3	5	1

5) Relapses

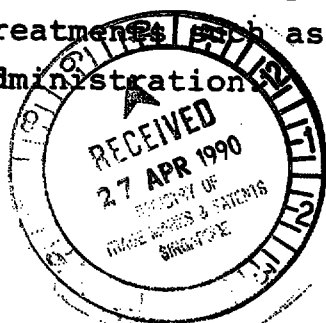
Any recurrence of diarrhea 3 days after resolution was labeled a relapse. In the experiment described herein, there were 7 relapses in the ORS group and only 2 In the ORS + ATTA group and none in the ORS + activated smectite group.

6) Side effects

There were a few cases of constipation in the ORS + Attapulgit group and none in the ORS + activated smectite group, in particular at the beginning of the study, in children weighing approximately 5 kg, for whom the dose of 2 envelopes/day was probably somewhat excessive.

7) Cost of Treatment

This was an important consideration, and given the current situation it is impossible to ignore this question in African public health programs, where it is possible to choose a given treatment modality only if it is sufficiently inexpensive. Treatment with ORS and atapulgit or Smectite, although more expensive per treatment than the use of ORS alone, is nonetheless acceptably inexpensive, particularly as compared to treatments such as intravenous drug and electrolyte administration.

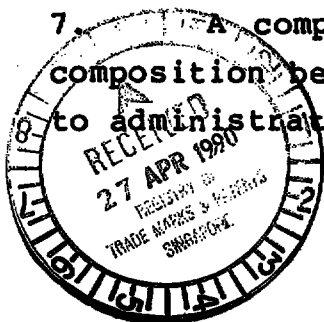


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Safety of ORS + ATTA or Smectite treatment also was good; the few cases of constipation seen in very young children required a decrease in dosage, and did not constitute major therapeutic obstacles.

C L A I M S

1. An anti-diarrhea composition containing diarrhea symptom-reducing amounts of a thermally activated, finely powdered, hydrous magnesium aluminium silicate clay belonging to the group of the attapulgites or to the group of the smectites as absorptive material capable of absorbing pathogenic intestinal bacteria, a sodium salt, a potassium salt and a sugar.
2. A composition according to claim 1 in which the sugar is glucose or dextrose.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2 further containing sodium bicarbonate.
4. A composition according to any preceding claim further comprising a suspending agent.
5. A composition according to claim 4 in which the suspending agent is a hydrocolloid, a polyol or a surfactant.
6. A composition according to any preceding claim, the composition being dispersed, suspended or dissolved in water and containing, per litre, from 2.5 to 15 g of the absorptive material, from 10 to 30 g of glucose, from 60 to 120 mEq of sodium, from 10 to 50 mEq of bicarbonate and from 10 to 30 mEq of potassium.
7. A composition according to any of claims 1 to 5, the composition being in solid form for admixture with water prior to administration to a patient.



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8. A composition according to claim 7 packaged in unit dosage form, the quantities of packaged material being such that their dispersion, suspension or dissolution in 200 ml of water gives a composition according to claim 6.

5 9. An anti-diarrhea composition substantially as described herein with reference to any of compositions 1 to 5.

