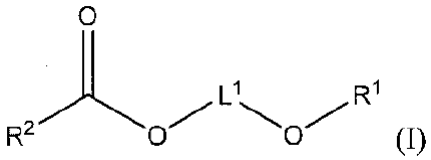
CLAIMS

1. The use of a compound in the manufacture of a medicament for treating dry eye in a human in need, wherein the compound having the formula:



(I)

wherein,

R^1 is an unsubstituted alkyl or alkenyl;

R^2 is an unsubstituted alkyl

L^1 is $–L^2$-C(O)- L^3- or -CH(-L^4-R^3)-L^3-;

L^2 is a bond or an unsubstituted alkylene;

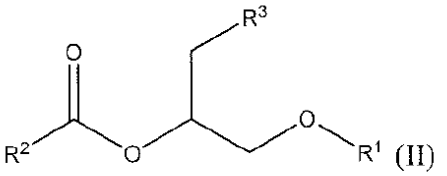
L^3 and L^4 are independently unsubstituted alkylene

R^3 is a hydroxyl or –O-C(O)-R^4 and

R^4 is unsubstituted alkyl;

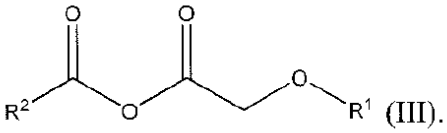
said compound provided in an ophthalmically acceptable carrier.

2. The use of a compound of claim 1, wherein said compound has the formula:



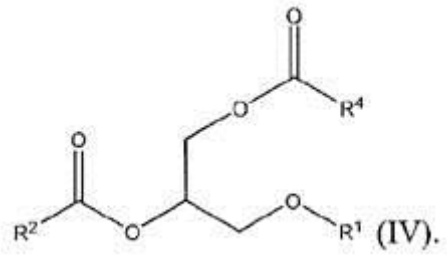
(II)

or



(III).

3. The use of a compound of claim 2, wherein said compound has the formula:



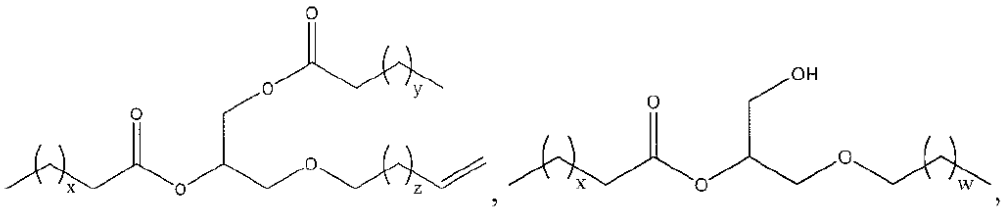
(IV).

4. The use of a compound of claim 2, wherein:
R^1 is unsubstituted C_6-C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl;
R^2 is unsubstituted C_5-C_{31} alkyl; and
R^4 is unsubstituted C_5-C_{31} alkyl.

5. The use of a compound of claim 2, wherein
R^1 is unsubstituted C_{14}-C_{22} alkyl or alkenyl;
R^2 is unsubstituted C_{13}-C_{17} alkyl; and
R^4 is unsubstituted C_{13}-C_{19} alkyl.

6. The use of a compound of claim 4, wherein R^2 is an unsubstituted C_{15} alkyl.

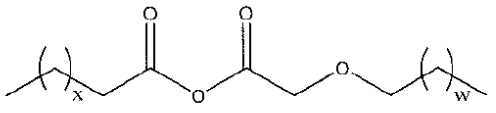
7. The use of a compound of claim 2, wherein said compound has the formula:



,

,

or



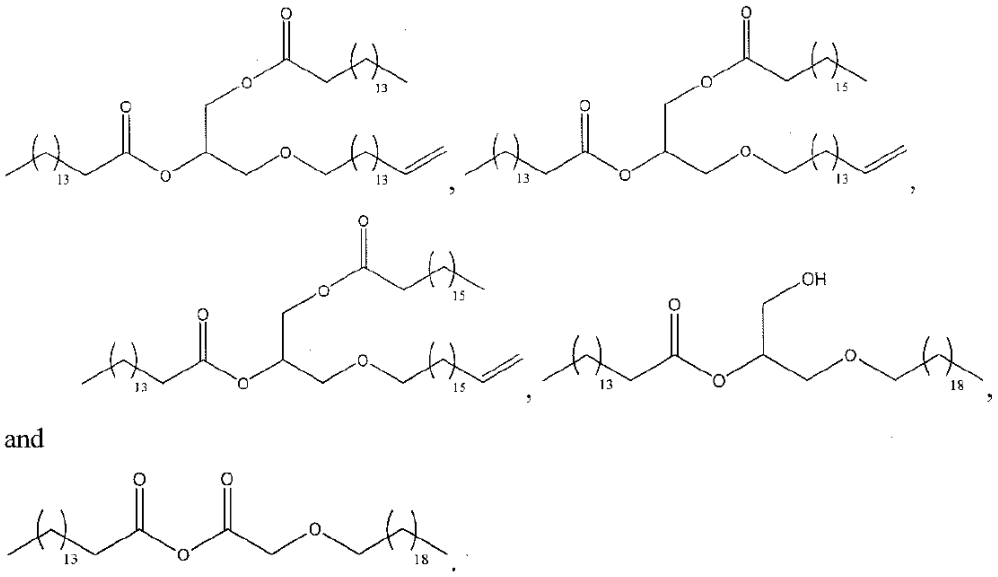
.

wherein:
x, y and z are independently 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29; and
w is 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 or 30.

8. The use of a compound of claim 7, wherein:
x is 11, 13, or 15;
y and z are independently 11, 13, 15 or 17; and

w is 16, 18 or 20.

9. The use of a compound of claim 7, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:



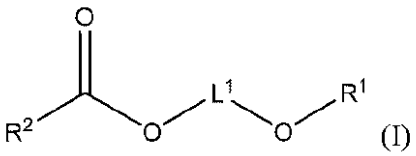
and

10. The use of a compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is to be administered in combination with a therapeutic agent.

11. The use of a compound of claim 10, wherein said therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of: NMDA antagonists, antibacterials, antihistamines, decongestants, antiinflammatories, antiparasitics, miotics, syrnpathomimetics, anticholinergics, adrenergics, antivirals, local anesthetics, antifungals, amoebicidals, trichomonocidals, analgesics, mydriatics, antiglaucoma drugs, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, ophthalmic diagnostic agents, ophthalmic agents used as adjuvants in surgery, chelating agents, antineoplastics, antihypertensives, muscle relaxants, diagnostics, adrenergic anesthetics, beta blockers, alpha-2-agonists, cycloplegics, postaglandins, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.

12. The use of a compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is to be administered topically.

13. An ophthalmic vehicle comprising a compound having the formula:



(I)

wherein,

R^1 is an unsubstituted alkyl or alkenyl;

R^2 is an unsubstituted alkyl;

L^1 is $–L^2$-C(O)-L^3- or -CH(-L^4-R^3)-L^3-;

L^2 is a bond or an unsubstituted alkylene;

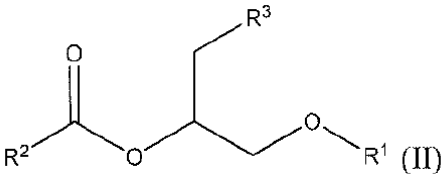
L^3 and L^4 are independently unsubstituted alkylene

R^3 is a hydroxyl or –O-C(O)-R^4; and

R^4 is unsubstituted alkyl,

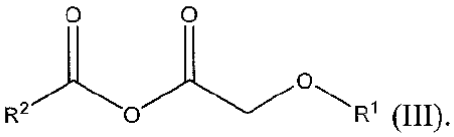
except compounds where L^1 is –CH(-CH_2-OH)-CH_2 , R^1 is –$(CH_2)_{15}$-CH_3 and R^2 is CH_3 or –$(CH_2)_{16}$-CH_3.

14. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein said compound has the formula:



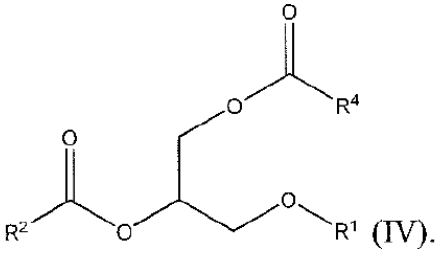
(II)

or



(III).

15. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein said compound has the formula:



(IV).

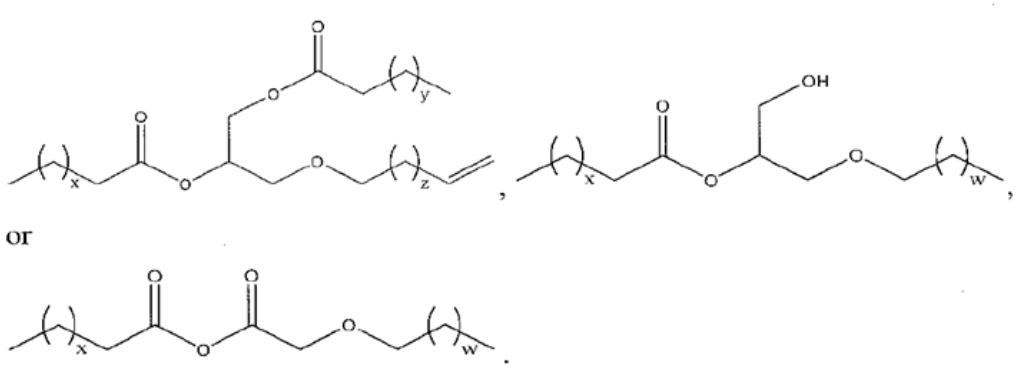
16. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein:

R^1 is unsubstituted C_6-C_{30} alkyl or alkenyl;
R^2 is unsubstituted C_5-C_{31} alkyl; and
R^4 is unsubstituted C_5-C_{31} alkyl.

17. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein:
R^1 is unsubstituted C_{14}-C_{22} alkyl or alkenyl;
R^2 is unsubstituted C_{13}-C_{17} alkyl; and
R^4 is unsubstituted C_{13}-C_{19} alkyl.

18. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein R^2 is an unsubstituted C_{15} alkyl.

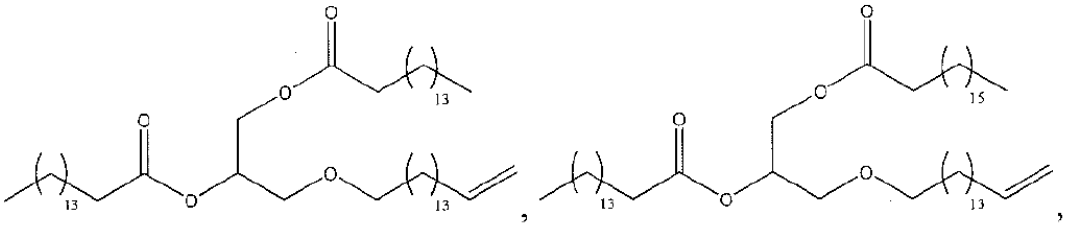
19. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, wherein said compound has the formula:



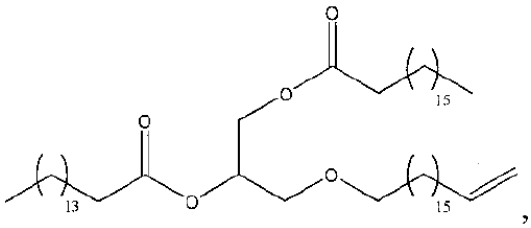
wherein:
x, y and z are independently 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 or 29; and
w is 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 or 30.

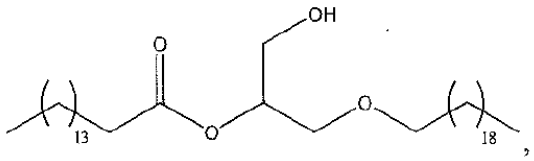
20. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 19, wherein:
x is 11, 13, or 15;
y and z are independently 11, 13, 15 or 17; and
w is 16, 18 or 20.

21. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 19, wherein said composition is selected from the group consisting of:

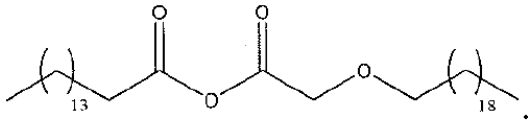

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and


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22. The ophthalmic vehicle of claim 13, further comprising a therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of NMDA antagonists, antibacterials, antihistamines, decongestants, antiinflammatories, antiparasitics, miotics, sympathomimetics, anticholinergics, adrenergics, antivirals, local anesthetics, antifungals, amoebicidals, trichomonocidals, analgesics, mydriatics, antiglaucoma drugs, carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, ophthalmic diagnostic agents, ophthalmic agents used as adjuvants in surgery, chelating agents, antineoplastics, antihypertensives, muscle relaxants, diagnostics, adrenergic anesthetics, beta blockers, alpha-2-agonists, cycloplegics, and postaglandins.