CLAIMS

1. An aqueous composition for ophthalmic use comprising
(i) a mixture M comprising or, alternatively, consisting of:
(a) a pepstatin or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and
(b) an alginic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and
(ii) at least one ophthalmological grade additive and/or excipient.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein said mixture M further comprises (c) hyaluronic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The composition according to claim 2 wherein said (i) mixture (M) comprises or, alternatively, consists of:
(a) a pepstatin;
(b) an alginate of an alkaline or alkaline-earth metal, preferably a magnesium alginate; and,
(c) a hyaluronate of an alkaline or alkaline-earth metal, preferably a sodium hyaluronate.

4. The composition according to any one of claims 1- 3, wherein the composition is formulated for ophthalmic use; preferably in liquid form for ophthalmic use, more preferably it is eye drops or aqueous-based eye drops; or, alternatively, in semi-solid form for ophthalmic use, preferably an ointment, a salve, a gel or a cream.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1-4 for use as medicament.

6. Use of ~~The~~ a composition according to any one of claims 1- 4 in the manufacture of a medicament ~~for use in a method~~ for preventive and/or curative treatment of a disease or symptom of the eyeball and/or periocular region related with or deriving from the presence of pepsin in the lacrimal fluid in a subject in need.

7. The ~~composition for~~ use according to claim 6, wherein said disease or symptom of the eyeball and/or periocular region is selected from the group comprising or, alternatively, consisting of: lacrimal dysfunction syndrome (LDS) or dry eye syndrome, conjunctivitis of the conjunctiva, conjunctivitis of the cornea, ocular inflammation, periocular inflammation, blepharitis, keratitis, and uveitis; preferably selected from the group comprising or, alternatively, consisting of: lacrimal dysfunction syndrome (LDS) or dry eye syndrome,

conjunctivitis of the conjunctiva, conjunctivitis of the cornea, ocular inflammation, and periocular inflammation.

8. The ~~composition for~~ use according to claim 6 or 7, ~~wherein said composition is for use in a method~~ for the preventive and/or curative treatment of a disease or symptom of the eyeball and/or periocular region in: (i) a subject with a gastric reflux, which manifests itself from the stomach to an oesophageal and/or extra-oesophageal region, (ii) a subject with a disease or symptom related with or deriving from said gastric reflux.

9. The ~~composition for~~ use according to claim 8, wherein said diseases or symptoms related with or deriving from, said gastric reflux, which manifests itself from the stomach to an oesophageal and/or extra-oesophageal region, are selected from the group comprising or, alternatively, consisting of: gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), erosive or non-erosive, laryngopharyngeal reflux (LPR) or extra-oesophageal reflux, oesophagitis, oesophageal ulcers, oesophageal mucosal de-epithelialisation, acid regurgitation, heartburn, feeling of gastric fullness, epigastric pain, dyspepsia, nausea, chronic cough, bronchospasm, sore throat, laryngitis, globus sensation or hypopharyngeal bolus, pyrosis, dysphonia, and rhinopharyngeal phlogosis.

10. A process for the preparation of the composition according to any one of claims 1- 4, wherein said process comprises:

- the step 1) for dissolving the pepstatin in a solvent, preferably an alcoholic solvent or ethanol, at neutral pH to obtain an alcoholic solution of pepstatin, followed by
- the step 2) for diluting the alcoholic solution of pepstatin in an aqueous solution comprising an alginic acid salt, preferably an alginate of an alkaline or alkaline-earth metal, more preferably magnesium alginate.