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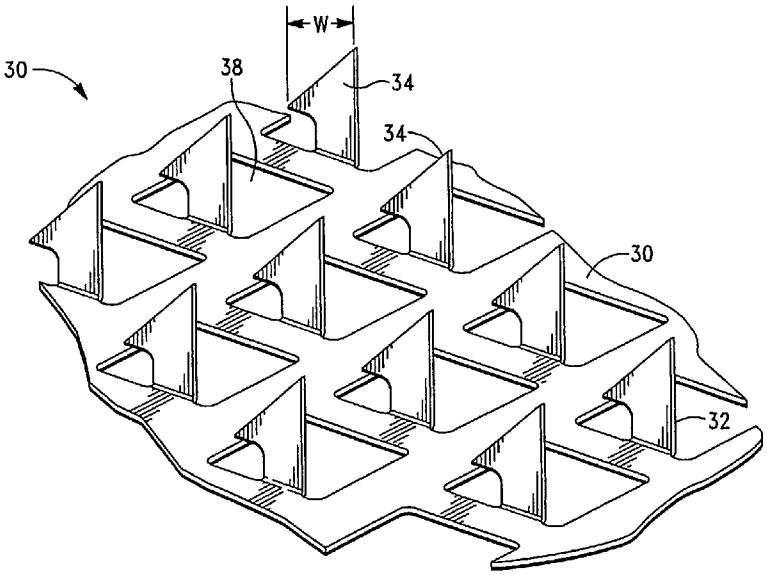
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TRANSDERMAL DELIVERY OF NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method for transdermally delivering a natriuretic peptide comprising a delivery system having a microprojection member that includes a plurality of microprojections (or array thereof) that are adapted to pierce through the stratum corneum into the underlying epidermis layer, or epidermis and dermis layers. In one embodiment, the natriuretic peptide is contained in a biocompatible coating that is applied to the microprojection member. In a further embodiment, the delivery system includes a natriuretic peptide-containing hydrogel formulation. In an alternative embodiment, the natriuretic peptide is contained in both the coating and the hydrogel formulation. In yet another embodiment, the natriuretic peptide is contained in a solid state formulation.

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