CLAIMS

1. A glycerol-modified, uncrosslinked hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative or a salt thereof having at least the primary hydroxyl group at the C6 carbon atom of all or a part of the *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine units of HA modified into ether-bonded glycerol-containing moieties.

2. An HA derivative according to Claim 1, in which the glycerol-containing moiety that is bonded to the C6 carbon atom of HA via an ether bond is a single glycerol residue or a polyglycerol structure of two or more multi-ether-bonded glycerol residues, preferably in the form of a dendrimetric hyperbranched polyglycerol structure.

3. An HA derivative according to Claim 1 or 2, in which the HA derivative is HA or a salt thereof having an average molecular weight of 1.0×10^4 Da to 4.0×10^6 Da and/or in which the glycerol-containing moieties are linked to the C6 carbon atom of *N*-acetyl-D-glucosamine units of HA in an amount such that the derivative comprises between 1 and 100, particularly between 5 and 50, of the glycerol-containing moieties per 100 repeating disaccharide unit of the HA.

4. A method for making a hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative or a salt thereof as defined in any preceding claim, comprising the steps of:

(a) solubilizing HA in an aqueous alkaline solution to obtain solubilized HA;

(b) adding glycidol to the solubilized HA of step (a);

(c) reacting glycidol and HA to obtain a glycerol-modified HA derivative; and

(d) isolating the glycerol-modified HA derivative.

5. A method according to Claim 4, in which step (d) comprises the following sub-steps:

(d1) neutralizing a reaction mixture resulting from step (c) comprising the glycerol-modified HA derivative; and

(d2) isolating the glycerol-modified HA derivative from the neutralized reaction mixture to obtain the glycerol-modified HA derivative, or a salt thereof, in purified form.

6. A hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative or a salt thereof obtainable by a method according to Claim 5.

7. Use of a hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative or salt thereof as defined in any of Claims 1 to 3 and 6 for preparing a dermal filler composition.

8. A dermal filler composition comprising crosslinked hyaluronic acid (HA) or a salt thereof and a HA derivative or a salt thereof as defined in any of Claims 1 to 3 and 6.

9. A dermal filler composition according to Claim 8, in which the crosslinked HA is present at a concentration of 0.1% to 4.0% by weight/volume and/or in which the HA derivative is present at a concentration of 0.1% to 30.0% by volume/volume.

10. A dermal filler composition according to Claim 8 or 9, in which the crosslinked HA is crosslinked with 1,4-butanediol diglycidyl ether (BDDE).

11. A dermal filler composition according to any of Claims 8 to 10, further comprising one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of anesthetics, polyols, vitamins, amino acids, metals, antioxidants, hydroxyapatite particles, and mineral salts, in which the composition preferably comprises a local anaesthetic agent such as lidocaine.

12. A method of preparing a dermal filler composition as defined in any of Claims 8 to 11, comprising the steps of:

(i) providing a hyaluronic acid (HA) derivative or a salt thereof as defined in any of Claims 1 to 3 and 6;

(ii) providing a crosslinked HA or a salt thereof; and

(iii) combining the HA derivative or a salt thereof and the crosslinked HA or a salt thereof to obtain the dermal filler composition.

13. A kit, comprising a dermal filler composition according to any of Claims 8 to 11 and, optionally, instructions for use.

14. Use of a dermal filler composition according to any of Claims 8 to 11 for cosmetic applications, including cosmetic treatments of facial lines, facial wrinkles, glabellar lines, nasolabial folds, marionette lines, buccal commissures, peri-lip wrinkles, crow’s feet,

subdermal support of the brows, malar and buccal fat pads, tear troughs, nose, lips, cheeks, peroral region, infraorbital region, facial asymmetries, jawlines, and chin.