

ABSTRACT**NEW EXTRACTIVE PROCESS FOR THE RECOVERY OF
NATURALLY OCCURRING MACROLIDES**

This invention concerns a process for separating a macrolide from acidic, basic and non-polar neutral impurities present in a macrolide containing solution which comprises one or more of the following processes in any order:

- a. a solution of said macrolide in a water-immiscible solvent is extracted with aqueous base to substantially remove all acidic impurities;
- b. a solution of said macrolide in a water-immiscible solvent is extracted with aqueous acid to substantially remove all basic impurities;
- c. a solution of said macrolide is subjected to one or more of the following in order to remove non-polar neutral impurities:
 - (i) extraction with a non-aromatic hydrocarbon solvent in which the macrolide is insoluble,
 - (ii) treatment with a sufficient quantity of a miscible macrolide non-solvent to cause the macrolide to become insoluble in the resulting solvent mixture and thus separate from the solution whereby the macrolide can be separated from the solvent mixture,
 - (iii) triturate with a macrolide crystallizing solvent .

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