## ABSTRACT

A composition for the prevention and treatment of diseases or pathological states related to the degradation of the extracellular matrix, including, but not limited to, degenerative diseases, particularly atheriosclerosis, cancer, infection or other inflammatory diseases is disclosed, comprising lysine, proline, ascorbate, and their derivatives and synthetic analogues and vitamins, pro-vitamins and trace elements. In particular the invention relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising ascorbate, at least one fibrinolysis inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, characterised in that the ascorbate and fibrinolysis collagenase inhibitor are present in amounts sufficient to treat collagenase-linked degenerative diseases (Figure 1).

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