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(54) Title: ADJUVANT COMPOSITION AND METHODS FOR ITS USE

(57) Abstract

An adjuvant composition which is a stable oil–in–water emulsion comprising a metabolizable oil, one or more surfactants, an antioxidant and a compound to make the emulsion isotonic is described and claimed. The stable emulsion has a hydrophobic–lipophilic balance (HLB) of from about 7.5 to about 10.5 and a particle size of less than 3 μm. In a preferred embodiment, the stable emulsion comprises 10 % volume to volume squalene, 0.09 % weight to volume PLURONIC F–68 block co–polymer, 1.9 % weight to volume egg phosphatidyl choline, 1.75 % volume to volume glycerol and 0.05 % weight to volume α tocopherol. The preferred emulsion has a HLB of 8.0 and a particle size of about 0.2 μm. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the stable emulsion is combined with an attenuated lipid A derivative such as monophosphoryl lipid A or 3–deacylated monophosphoryl lipid A to enhance the adjuvanticity of the composition.