CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dentifrice comprising chitosan or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, fluoride ions and an abrasive, for use against erosive tooth demineralization, wherein the dentifrice is a toothpaste comprising a liquid phase and comprising tin dissolved in the liquid phase.

2. The dentifrice of claim 1, wherein the use is the prevention of erosive tooth demineralisation or the treatment of teeth affected by erosive tooth demineralisation.

3. The dentifrice of claim 1 or 2, wherein the chitosan or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof and the fluoride ions are dissolved in the liquid phase.

4. The dentifrice of claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the chitosan comprises unmodified chitosan.

5. The dentifrice of claim 1~~5~~, wherein the use is the treatment of teeth affected by erosive tooth demineralisation or prevention of erosive tooth demineralisation and the toothpaste comprises one or more abrasives in a total amount such as to impart the toothpaste a pellicle cleaning ration (PCR) value of at least 50.

6. The dentifrice of claim 1 wherein the dentifrice comprises 200 to 2000 ppm, preferably 1000 to 1800 ppm fluoride ions, 0.05 to 1% of chitosan or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, 3000 to 4000 ppm tin dissolved in the liquid phase, 17 to 27% of glycerol, 17 to 27 % of sorbitol and 0.3 to 1% of gluconate, all % being based on the toothpaste; and one or more abrasives in a total amount such as to impart the toothpaste a pellicle cleaning ratio (PCR) value of at least 50.

7. The dentifrice of claim 6, furthermore comprising 0.2 to 0.5% of chloride, 25 to 35% of water, 1 to 2% of hydroxyethylcellulose and 3 to 4% of cocamidopropyl betaine, all % being based on the toothpaste.

8. The dentifrice of claim 6 or 7, comprising 1300 to 1500 ppm fluoride ions, 0.4 to 0.6% of chitosan or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, 3300 to 3700 ppm tin dissolved in the liquid phase, 20 to 24% of glycerol, 20 to 24% of sorbitol, 0.3 to 0.4% of chloride, 0.4 to 0.6% of gluconate and 27 to 32% of water, all % being based on the toothpaste.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the toothpaste comprises one or more abrasives in a total amount such as to impart the toothpaste a pellicle cleaning ratio (PCR) value of at least 50; and wherein the subject's teeth are affected by erosive tooth demineralisation.

16. Use of a composition comprising chitosan or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, fluoride ions and an abrasive, in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention of erosive tooth demineralisation or for the treatment of teeth affected by erosive tooth demineralisation in a subject in need of such prevention or treatment, wherein the toothpaste comprising a liquid phase and comprising tin dissolved in the liquid phase.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the chitosan or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof and the fluoride ions are dissolved in the liquid phase.

18. The use of claim 16, wherein the toothpaste comprises one or more abrasives in a total amount such as to impart the toothpaste a pellicle cleaning ratio (PCR) value of at least 50; and wherein the subject's teeth are affected by erosive tooth demineralisation.

19~~16~~. Oral care articles containing fluoride ions as an agent against erosive tooth demineralization, and chitosan or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, as a combination for the simultaneous, separate or successive administration in the prevention or treatment of erosive tooth demineralisation, with the provisos that the oral care articles contain a dentifrice comprising an abrasive, and that the either the fluoride ions or the chitosan or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof are contained in the dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice is a toothpaste comprising a liquid phase and wherein the liquid phase furthermore comprising tin dissolved in the liquid phase.

20~~17~~. The oral care articles of claim 19~~16~~, the fluoride ions are dissolved in the liquid phase.

21~~18~~ The oral care articles of claim 19~~16~~, wherein the chitosan or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is dissolved in the liquid phase.