CLAIMS

1. A ~~method of promoting haemostasis in a patient in need thereof including the step of administering to the site of blood loss a~~ viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition comprising an ionic precipitating agent, a fatty alcohol, an alcohol phosphate diester and one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol for use in promoting haemostasis in a patient in need thereof.

2. A viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition comprising (i) an ionic precipitating agent comprising a polyvalent metal ion wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of iron, silver, aluminium, calcium, magnesium and manganese; (ii) a fatty alcohol; (iii) an alcohol phosphate diester; and (iv) one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

3. The viscous thixotropic haemostatic gel composition for use according to ~~method of~~ claim 1, wherein the ionic precipitating agent comprises a cation selected from the group consisting of iron, silver, aluminium, calcium, magnesium, manganese and ammonium cations.

4. The use according to ~~method of~~ claim 3, wherein the ionic precipitating agent comprises a salt of a metal wherein the salt is selected from the group consisting of chloride, nitrate, sulphate and acetate salts.

5. The use according to ~~method of~~ claim 4, wherein the ionic precipitating agent is selected from the group consisting of ferric chloride, an iron sulphate, inclusive of ferric subsulphate, silver nitrate, silver chloride, aluminium chloride hexahydrate, aluminium sulphate and aluminium acetate.

6. The use according to ~~method of~~ claim 5, wherein the ionic precipitating agent is present in the composition as Monsel's solution.

7. The composition of claim 2 wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of iron, silver and aluminium.

8. The composition of claim 2 or claim 7, wherein the metal is iron in the form of an iron salt.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the iron salt is ferric subsulphate.

10. The composition of claim 9, where the ferric subsulphate is present in the form of Monsel's solution.

11. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the fatty alcohol has between 10 to 22 carbon atoms.

12. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 11 wherein the fatty alcohol is selected from the group consisting of myristyl alcohol, pentadecyl alcohol, cetyl alcohol, heptadecyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, nonadecyl alcohol and arachidyl alcohol.

13. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 12 wherein the fatty alcohol is a mix of cetyl and stearyl alcohols.

14. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 13 wherein the fatty alcohol is cetostearyl alcohol.

15. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is a diester phosphate of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol having from 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

16. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 15 wherein the alcohol phosphate diester is dicetylphosphate.

17. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

18. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 17 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is alkoxylated with from about 1 to about 50 moles of an alkylene oxide per mole of alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

19. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 18 wherein the alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

20. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 17 wherein the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol is ceteth-10 phosphate.

21. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprises a mixture of the monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol and an alcohol phosphate diester of a non-alkoxylated fatty alcohol.

22. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the composition comprises an ionic precipitating agent comprising ferric subsulphate, cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate.

23. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of claim 22 wherein the cetostearyl alcohol, dicetyl phosphate and ceteth-10 phosphate comprise from 5% to 25% by weight of the composition.

24. The use ~~method~~ or the composition of any one of the preceding claims wherein the alkoxyether phosphate comprises between 12 to 22 carbon atoms.

25. The composition of any one of claims 2, or 7 to 25, wherein the composition further comprises a local anaesthetic.

26. The use ~~method~~ of any one of the claims 1, 3 to 6, or 11 to 25 wherein the blood loss is caused by a surgical procedure selected from the group consisting of a curettage, colposcopy and biopsy or a dental procedure or uterine or haemorrhoidal bleeding.

27. The use ~~method~~ of any one of claim 1, or 3 to 6, 11 to 24 or 26 wherein the blood loss is caused by a physical trauma.

28. The use ~~method~~ of any one of claims 1, 3 to 6, 11 to 24 or 26, wherein the composition is administered from a unit dose or multi-dose container.

29. The composition of any one of claims 2, or 7 to 25, wherein the composition is part of a sterile or non sterile bandages, suppository, tampon, collagen pack, hydroxyapatite or hyaluronic acid polymer, or implantable device.

30. A use of the viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition according to any one of claims 2, or 7 to 25 in the manufacture of a medicament for the promotion of haemostasis at a site of blood loss in a patient.

31. A kit comprising the viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition of any one of claims 2, or 7 to 25 and an applicator device.

32. A method of formulating the viscous thixotropic haemostatic composition of any one of claim 2, or 7 to 25 including the step of combining an ionic precipitating agent comprising a polyvalent metal ion wherein the metal is selected from the group consisting of iron, silver, aluminium, calcium, magnesium and manganese with a fatty alcohol, an alcohol phosphate diester and one of an alkoxyether phosphate or a monoester phosphate of an alkoxylated fatty alcohol.