(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
21 November 2002 (21.11.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/092131 A2

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: A61K 47/48

(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP02/05310

(22) International Filing Date: 10 May 2002 (10.05.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/853,367 11 May 2001 (11.05.2001) US

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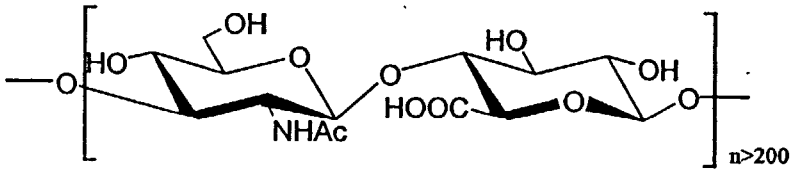
(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS OF LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT HYALURONIC ACID AND METHODS TO PREVENT, TREAT AND DIAGNOSE INFECTIONS AND DISEASES CAUSED BY GROUP A AND GROUP C STREPTOCOCCI



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides antigenic compositions and methods for treatment and prevention of infection and disease caused by group A and group C streptococci. In particular, the invention provides low molecular weight hyaluronic acid, low molecular weight hyaluronic acid linked to a carrier and compositions comprising them. The compositions elicit antibodies to low molecular weight hyaluronic acid which are cross-reactive with group A and C streptococci and which are minimally cross-reactive with native hyaluronic acid. The invention is particularly useful for providing both active and passive immunogenic protection for those infected wiht or at risk infection with group A and group C streptococci. Additionally, the present invention provides methods and compositions useful for diagnosing infections and diseases caused by group A and group C streptococci.

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