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10 TITLE OF THE INVENTION

HEPATITIS B VIRUS SURFACE PROTEINS WITH REDUCED HOST
CARBOHYDRATE CONTENT

15 ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

In order to produce hepatitis B virus (HBV)
surface proteins in the form of particles with
substantially reduced entrapped carbohydrate content,
20 DNA encoding the HBV surface proteins was expressed
in a recombinant yeast host which is deficient in its
ability to glycosylate proteins. These HBV surface
proteins display the antigenic sites genetically
encoded by the S domain of the HBV virion envelope
25 open reading frame and contains substantially reduced
levels of entrapped carbohydrate when compared with
HBsAg particles produced in "wild-type" yeast cells.
These particles are useful as a vaccine for both the
active and passive treatment or prevention of disease
30 and/or infection caused by HBV or other agents
serologically related to HBV.