CLAIMS

1. Use of a composition comprising as active ingredient a carboxylic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in the manufacture of a medicament for improving barrier function of the skin, wherein the composition is to be administered to an infant.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the infant is of the age of 0 to 3 years.

3. The use according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the carboxylic acid prevents the infant from infections and diseases transmitted via the skin.

4. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the carboxylic acid comprises between two and four carbon atoms.

5. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the carboxylic acid is acetic acid, propionic acid or butyric acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, preferably propionic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

6. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition is in liquid or solid form.

7. The use according to claim 6, wherein the liquid composition is in form of a spray, a gel, a cream or an aqueous solution.

8. The use according to claim 6, wherein the solid composition is in form of a capsule or tablet.

9. The use according to claim 7, wherein the composition is to be applied topically or intranasally.

10. The use according to claim 8, wherein the composition is to be applied orally.

11. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the carboxylic acid is the only active ingredient comprised in said composition.