CLAIMS

1. An aqueous ophthalmic solution containing hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof at a concentration from 0.03 to 0.5% (w/v), and propylene glycol at a concentration from 0.1 to 1.0% (w/v), the ophthalmic solution comprising:

benzalkonium chloride at a concentration from 0.001 to ~~0.002~~0.0015% (w/v) as a sole preservative; and

an ionic tonicity agent, ~~at such a concentration that an~~ the ophthalmic solution having an osmotic pressure ratio ~~of the ophthalmic solution becomes~~ from 0.9 to 1.1.

2. The ophthalmic solution according to claim 1, comprising a buffer and a pH adjuster in such an amount that pH of the ophthalmic solution becomes from 6.0 to 7.0.

3. The ophthalmic solution according to claim 1 or 2, comprising an edetate at a concentration from 0.001 to 0.1% (w/v).

4. The ophthalmic solution according to claim 1, wherein

a concentration of hyaluronic acid or the salt thereof is from 0.1 to 0.3% (w/v).

5. The ophthalmic solution according to claim 1, wherein

a concentration of propylene glycol is from 0.25 to 0.75% (w/v).

~~6. The ophthalmic solution according to claim 1, wherein~~

~~a concentration of benzalkonium chloride is from 0.001 to 0.0015% (w/v).~~

~~7~~6. An aqueous ophthalmic solution, consisting essentially of:

hyaluronic acid or a salt thereof at a concentration from 0.03 to 0.5% (w/v);

propylene glycol at a concentration from 0.1 to 1.0% (w/v);

benzalkonium chloride at a concentration from 0.001 to ~~0.002~~0.0015% (w/v);

an ionic tonicity agent ~~at such a concentration that an osmotic pressure ratio of the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.9 to 1.1~~;

a buffer and a pH adjuster in such an amount that pH of the ophthalmic solution becomes from 6.0 to 7.0; and

an edetate at a concentration from 0.001 to 0.1% (w/v) ~~.~~,

the aqueous ophthalmic solution having an osmotic pressure ratio from 0.9 to 1.1.

~~8~~7. The ophthalmic solution according to claim ~~7~~6, wherein

a concentration of hyaluronic acid or the salt thereof is from 0.1 to 0.3% (w/v), and

a concentration of propylene glycol is from 0.25 to 0.75% (w/v) ~~, and~~

~~a concentration of benzalkonium chloride is from 0.001 to 0.0015% (w/v)~~.

~~9~~8. A method of improving preservative effectiveness of an aqueous ophthalmic solution containing sodium hyaluronate at a concentration of 0.1% (w/v) and benzalkonium chloride as a sole preservative, setting kinematic viscosity of the ophthalmic solution to 3.0 to 4.0 mm^2/s, and preventing drip of the ophthalmic solution, comprising:

a step (a) of mixing sodium hyaluronate in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes 0.1% (w/v), benzalkonium chloride in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.001 to ~~0.002~~0.0015% (w/v), propylene glycol in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.1 to 1.0% (w/v), and an ionic tonicity agent, the ophthalmic solution having ~~in such an amount that~~ an osmotic pressure ratio ~~of the ophthalmic solution becomes~~ from 0.9 to 1.1;

a step (b) of adjusting pH of the ophthalmic solution to 6.0 to 7.0; and

a step (c) of filling an eye drop container with the ophthalmic solution.

~~10~~9. A method of improving preservative effectiveness of an aqueous ophthalmic solution containing sodium hyaluronate at a concentration of 0.3% (w/v) and benzalkonium chloride as a sole preservative, setting kinematic viscosity of the ophthalmic solution to 17 to 30 mm^2/s, and preventing drip of the ophthalmic solution, comprising:

a step (a) of mixing sodium hyaluronate in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes 0.3% (w/v), benzalkonium chloride in such an amount that a concentration in ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.001 to ~~0.002~~0.0015% (w/v), propylene glycol in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.1 to 1.0% (w/v), and an ionic tonicity agent, the ophthalmic solution having ~~in such an amount that~~ an osmotic pressure ratio ~~of the ophthalmic solution to~~ from 0.9 to 1.1;

a step (b) of adjusting pH of the ophthalmic solution to 6.0 to 7.0; and

a step (c) of filling an eye drop container with the ophthalmic solution.

~~11~~10. The method according to claim ~~9~~8 or ~~10~~9, wherein

in the step (a), an edetate in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.001 to 0.1% (w/v) is further mixed.

~~12~~11. The method according to claim ~~9~~8 or ~~10~~9, wherein

in the step (a), propylene glycol in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.25 to 0.75% (w/v) is mixed.

~~13. The method according to claim 9 or 10, wherein~~

~~in the step (a), benzalkonium chloride in such an amount that a concentration in the ophthalmic solution becomes from 0.001 to 0.0015% (w/v) is mixed.~~