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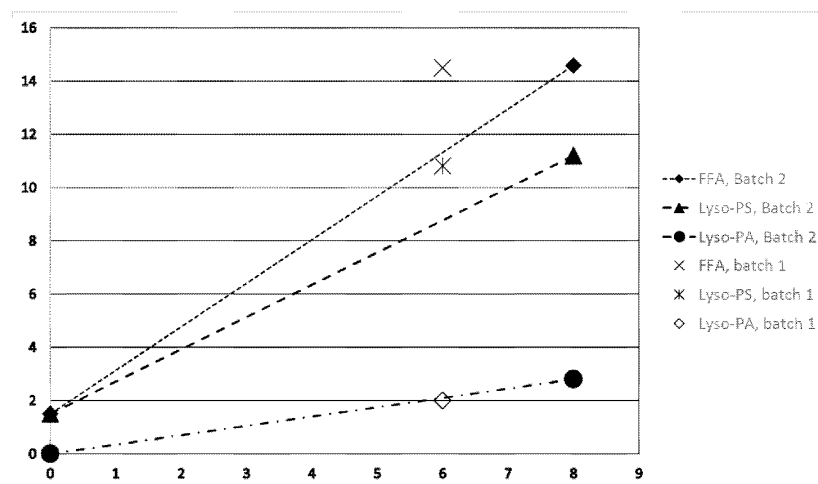
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(54) Title: ULTRASOUND CONTRAST AGENT AND METHODS FOR USE THEREOF

FIG. 1



(57) Abstract: The present disclosure is directed to an ultrasound contrast agent comprising microbubbles of perfluorocarbon, which microbubbles are stabilised by a membrane of phospholipid; and a buffering agent; wherein the ultrasound contrast agent has a bulk pH of from about 7.5 or above, preferably about 8.5 or above. The ultrasound contrast agent is for long-term storage and is ready for use in vivo. Further disclosed is a method for preparing such an ultrasound contrast agent and methods for use of an ultrasound contrast agent in a clinical setting.

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