

Claims

1. A liquid formulation suitable for intraarticular injection comprising or consisting of FGF-18, a xyloglucan and a buffer, wherein said xyloglucan has a degalactosylation degree at or about 44 or 45%.
2. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the buffer is a phosphate buffer.
3. The liquid formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein FGF-18 is selected from the group consisting of :
 - a. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the amino acid residues 28-207 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the amino acid residues 28-196 of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - c. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the xyloglucan is in a concentration of 3 to 4 % wt and the buffer is in a concentration of 96 or 97 % wt.
5. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ratio xyloglucan:FGF-18 is 9:1.
6. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said formulation forms a hydrogel when exposed at a temperature at or around 37°C.
7. A method for producing the hydrogel according to claim 6, comprising the steps of:
 - a. preparing a liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6,
 - b. exposing the liquid formulation at a temperature of 37°C or about 37°C to form the gel.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the gel is formed in situ.
9. A hydrogel comprising or consisting of FGF-18, a xyloglucan having a degalactosylation degree at or about 44 or 45% and a buffer obtained according to the method of any one of claims 7 or 8.
10. An article of manufacture comprising a container comprises or consists of the liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
11. Use of the liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or the hydrogel according to claim 9 for the manufacture of a medicament for cartilage repair or for the treatment of cartilage disorders.
12. The use according to claim 11, wherein the cartilage disorder is osteoarthritis or cartilage injury.