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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP99/10210 (22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1999 (17.12.99) (30) Priority Data: MI98A002821 24 December 1998 (24.12.98) IT (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): E-PHARMA TRENTO S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Provina, 2, Frazione Ravina, I-38040 Trento (IT). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): CATALANO, Riccardo [IT/IT]; Via Segherie, 8/a, I-38030 Castello, Molina di Fiemme (Trento) (IT). (74) Agents: MARCHI, Massimo et al.; Marchi & Partners s.r.l., Via Pirelli, 19, I-20124 Milano (IT).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR PREPARING AN EFFERVESCENT GRANULATE COMPRISING IRON GLUCONATE, GRANULATE THUS OBTAINED AND TABLETS CONTAINING THE SAME		
(57) Abstract A method for preparing an effervescent granulate comprising ferrous gluconate as pharmacologically active ingredient, and citric acid and sodium bicarbonate as effervescent system, by means of wet granulation in a fluid-bed granulator, wherein the said method comprises the steps of I) feeding a mixture comprising ferrous gluconate, citric acid and sodium bicarbonate into the said granulator which is simultaneously fed with a flow of air heated to about 70 °C and having a moisture content of <1.0 g/kg; II) wetting the said mixture with nebulized water when this mixture has reached a temperature of about 35 °C; III) evaporating off the nebulizing water, while keeping the temperature of the said mixture substantially constant at 35 °C; IV) repeating steps II and III until a granulate with the desired features is obtained; and V) drying the said granulate with air heated to about 80 °C until its moisture content is ≤0.5 % by weight. Granulate thus obtained and tablets containing the same.		

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