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(54) Title: PRODUCT PACKAGING HAVING SELF-STERILIZING COMPONENTS

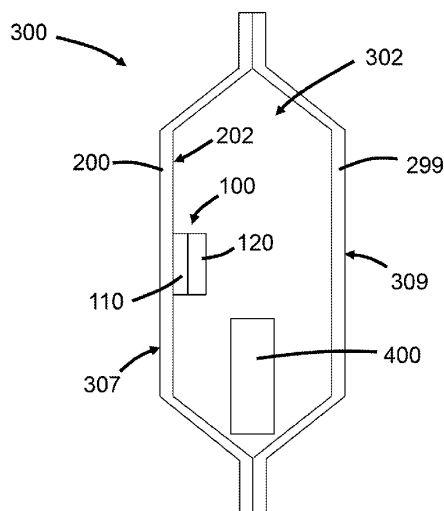


FIG. 4

(57) Abstract: A package comprises: a sterile barrier packaging film; self-sterilizing components comprising: a plurality of chlorite ions and water, wherein the self-sterilizing components are substantially free of an energy-activated catalyst and of an acid-releasing compound; a package interior formed by hermetically sealing the sterile barrier packaging film; and a headspace within the package interior comprising carbon dioxide present in an amount of greater than or equal to 5% by volume of the headspace. When the package is exposed to ultraviolet (UV) light having a wavelength of 254 nm, the chlorite ions react with the water to generate chlorine dioxide (ClO₂), which is released into the headspace. In the absence of any UV light, there is not chlorine dioxide (ClO₂) generation.

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