It was found that this problem is solved according to the invention by using fatty acid ester of monovalent C_1 to C_6 alkyl alcohol. Thus, according to the invention it was found, surprisingly, that addition of a fatty acid ester as refatting agent to an alcoholic disinfectant leads, with increasing concentration, even to an improvement in efficacy in the quantitative suspension test according to DGHM, in contrast to addition of glycerin as refatting agent.

The invention therefore relates, in a first aspect, to an alcoholic disinfectant that comprises

a) at least 79.5 to 95 wt% ethanol, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, and
b) 0.3 to 2.0 wt% of isopropyl myristate;

with the disinfectant comprising

i. less than 0.1 wt% glycerin, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, and
ii. less than 5.0 wt% perfume, relative to the weight of the disinfectant.

The disinfectant according to the invention thus comprises less than 0.1 wt% glycerin, preferably less than 0.05 wt%, especially less than 0.03 wt%, for example less than 0.01 wt% glycerin, in each case relative to the weight of the disinfectant.

a) <u>Ethanol</u>

The alcoholic disinfectant according to the invention contains at least 78 wt% ethanol, preferably at least 78.5 wt%, preferably at most 98 wt%, more preferably at most 97 wt%, such as 79.0 to 96 wt%, especially 79.5 to 95 wt%, such as 80

In one embodiment, the invention relates to an alcoholic disinfectant that comprises a) at least 78 wt% ethanol, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, and b) one or more fatty acid esters of monovalent C_1 to C_6 alkyl alcohol, wherein the disinfectant comprises less than 0.1 wt% glycerin, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, for use for surgical and hygienic disinfection of the hands.

In another embodiment, the invention relates to the use of fatty acid ester of monovalent C_1 to C_6 alkyl alcohol for improving the antimicrobial efficacy of an alcoholic disinfectant, wherein the disinfectant comprises at least 78 wt% ethanol, relative to the weight of the disinfectant. Preferably this improvement in antimicrobial efficacy is an improvement in the quantitative suspension test according to DGHM (Method 9, Gebel et al. (2001): Standard methods of the DGHM for testing chemical methods of disinfection, mhp Verlag GmbH, as at 1 September 2001), determined at a concentration of 35% (v/v) of the disinfectant in the test (diluted with water of standardized hardness (WSH) on a concentration of 43.75% (v/v) (i.e. 1.25-fold) dirty conditions, *Escherichia coli* K12 ATCC 10538), with time of action of 30 s, 60 s, 90 s or 120 s (and preferably 60 s).

The advantages of the present invention can be seen in particular from the following examples. Unless stated otherwise, all percentages refer to weight.

Examples

Abbreviations used:
IPM = isopropyl myristate
EtOH = ethanol

Patent claims

1. Alcoholic disinfectant, comprising

a) at least 79.5 to 95wt% ethanol, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, and

b) 0.3 to 2.0 wt% of isopropyl myristate;

wherein the disinfectant

i. comprises less than 0.1 wt% glycerine, relative to the weight of the disinfectant, and

ii. comprises less than 5.0 wt% perfume, relative to the weight of the disinfectant.

2. Disinfectant according to Claim 1, **characterized in that** it comprises 80 to 94 wt% ethanol, relative to the weight of the disinfectant.

3. Disinfectant according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** component b) is present in an amount from 0.5 to 1.8 wt%

4. Disinfectant according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it is free from water-insoluble polymeric amines.

5. Disinfectant according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it is free from amino-substituted polystyrenes.

6. Disinfectant according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it comprises less than 10 wt% of C_3 alcohol.

7. Disinfectant according to one of the preceding claims, **characterized in that** it further comprises

c) 0.5 to 1.5 wt% fatty alcohol,
d) 0.4 to 1.0 wt% diol,
e) 0.05 to 0.15 wt% bispyridinium alkane,
f) 0.3 to 1.0 wt% chlorhexidine derivative,
g) 0.05 to 0.3 wt% glycerin ether,
h) 0.3 to 1.0 wt% fatty acid fatty alcohol ester,
i) 0.4 to 1.0 wt% polyvinylpyrrolidone,
j) 0.3 to 1.0 wt% sugar alcohol,
k) 0.005 to 0.03 wt% of antioxidant,

and/or

l) 0.05 to 0.3 wt% of skin care agent.