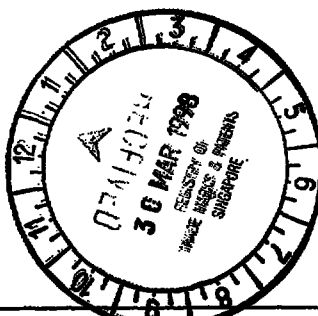


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## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| <b>(51) International Patent Classification 6 :</b><br><b>C08B 37/08, C08L 5/08, A61K 31/725</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>A1</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 97/04012</b><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 6 February 1997 (06.02.97)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/SE96/00684<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 28 May 1996 (28.05.96)<br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>08/503,323      17 July 1995 (17.07.95)      US<br><b>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor:</b> ÅGERUP, Bengt [SE/SE];<br>Hävelvägen 6, S-756 47 Uppsala (SE).<br><b>(74) Agent:</b> AWAPATENT AB; P.O. Box 45086, S-104 30<br>Stockholm (SE).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i><br><br> |
| <b>(54) Title:</b> POLYSACCHARIDE GEL COMPOSITION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>(57) Abstract</b><br><br><p>The present invention provides a process for preparing a cross-linked biocompatible polysaccharide gel composition, which comprises: forming an aqueous solution of a water soluble, cross-linkable polysaccharide; initiating a cross-linking of said polysaccharide in the presence of a polyfunctional cross-linking agent therefor; sterically hindering the cross-linking reaction from being terminated before gelation occurs, an activated polysaccharide being obtained; and reintroducing sterically unhindered conditions for said activated polysaccharide so as to continue the cross-linking thereof to a viscoelastic gel. The invention also provides a gel composition obtainable by such a process as well as gel compositions for different medical uses.</p> |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |