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(54) Title: MAINTENANCE AND/OR CULTURE OF TISSUE SLICES IN VITRO OR EX VIVO

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the maintenance and/or culture of tissue slices in vitro or ex vivo. In particular, the present invention relates to a method for the maintenance and/or culture of tissue slices using hydrogels. In one embodiment, the hydrogel is a semi-synthetic hydrogel comprising thiolated hyaluronan with acrylated peptides comprising KGGGPQGIWGGQK (SEQ ID NO: 1) that are degradable by matrix metalloproteinases. In particular, the present invention provides a platform suitable for downstream analysis such as real-time imaging, other real-time study of the tissue in culture and testing of a therapeutic agent or a potential therapeutic agent.



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