ABSTRACT

Contrast agents comprising gas-containing or gas-generating polymer microparticles and/or microballoons, in which the polymer is a biodegradable polymer containing units of formula

$$\{(O)_m\text{-}CO\text{-}O\text{-}C(R^1R^2)\text{-}O\text{-}CO\text{-}(O)_n\} \qquad (II)$$

(wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent hydrogen or a carbon-attached monovalent organic groups or together form a carbon-attached divalent organic group, and m and n are each independently zero or 1) may be used in diagnostic applications such as ultrasound and MR imaging.

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