

Claims

1. A liquid formulation suitable for intraarticular injection comprising or consisting of FGF-18, a xyloglucan and a buffer,
wherein said xyloglucan has a degalactosylation degree at or about 44 or 45%.
2. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the buffer is a phosphate buffer.
3. The liquid formulation according to any of the preceding claims, wherein FGF-18 is selected from the group consisting of :
 - a. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the amino acid residues 28-207 of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of the amino acid residues 28-196 of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - c. a polypeptide comprising or consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.
4. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the xyloglucan is in a concentration of 3 to 4 % wt and the buffer is in a concentration of 96 or 97 % wt.
5. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the ratio xyloglucan:FGF-18 is 9:1.
6. The liquid formulation according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said formulation forms a hydrogel when exposed at a temperature at or around 37°C.
7. A method for producing the hydrogel according to claim 6, comprising the steps of:
 - a. preparing a liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 7,
 - b. exposing the liquid formulation at a temperature of 37°C or about 37°C to form the gel.
8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the gel is formed in situ.
9. A hydrogel suitable for intraarticular injection comprising or consisting of FGF-18, a xyloglucan having a degalactosylation degree at or about 44 or 45% and a buffer obtained according to the method of any one of claims 7 or 8.
10. An article of manufacture comprising a container comprises or consists of the liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6.
11. The liquid formulation according to any one of claims 1 to 6 or the hydrogel according to claim 10 for use in cartilage repair or for the treatment of cartilage disorders.
12. The liquid formulation according to claim 11 or the hydrogel according to claim 11, wherein the cartilage disorder is osteoarthritis or cartilage injury.