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(54) Title: FOOD GRADE THICKENER AND METHODS FOR TREATING SWALLOWING DISORDERS

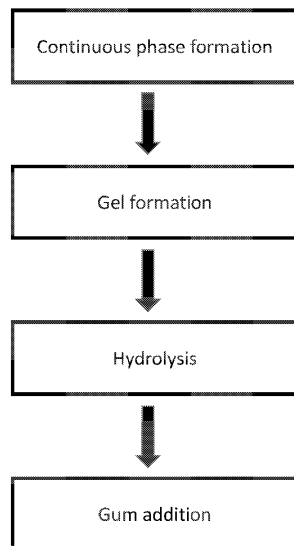


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a method for providing a food grade thickener, the method comprising the steps of: establishing an aqueous continuous phase of a first polysaccharide, adding a second polysaccharide to the continuous phase thereby forming a gelled mixture, hydrolysing the gelled mixture to reduce the viscosity of the gelled mixture, and adding a gum to the hydrolysed gelled mixture under conditions such that the gum only partially expresses its viscosity, thereby forming the food grade thickener. The invention also relates to a method of treating a subject suffering from a mastication and/or deglutition disease, disorder or condition, comprising the step of administering a foodstuff to the subject, wherein the foodstuff comprises the food grade thickener of the invention. The invention further relates to a storage and delivery system for a food grade thickener, comprising: a.) a container containing the food grade thickener of the invention, and b.) a pump dispenser sealably attached to the container, wherein the dispenser comprises a valve for inhibiting or preventing drying of the composition in the container.

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