CLAIMS

1. An anesthetic emulsion comprising:

a dispersed phase comprising a eutectic mixture of lidocaine and benzocaine; and

an aqueous or aqueous-based continuous phase comprising bupivacaine.

2. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein a ratio of lidocaine to benzocaine ranges from 1.5 to 3.

3. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein the aqueous phase further comprises one or more gelling agents.

4. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein the eutectic mixture further comprises menthol.

5. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein the lidocaine is present in an amount of 10-20 weight percent of the anesthetic emulsion.

6. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein the benzocaine is present in an amount of 3-8 weight percent of the anesthetic emulsion.

7. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 4, wherein the menthol is present in an amount of 0.5-2 weight percent of the anesthetic emulsion.

8. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 3, wherein the one or more gelling agents are present in a total amount of 15-25 weight percent of the anesthetic emulsion.

9. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1 having a viscosity of 3-5 Pa-s at 30^{o}C and a shear rate of 500/s.

10. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 3, wherein the one or more gelling agents comprises a block copolymer comprising hydrophobic and hydrophilic blocks.

11. The anesthetic emulsion of claim 1, wherein the bupivacaine is present in an amount up to 5 weight percent of the anesthetic emulsion.

12. Use of an anesthetic emulsion in the manufacture of a medicament for treating a site of damaged tissue of a patient, wherein the anesthetic emulsion comprises:

a dispersed phase comprising a eutectic mixture of lidocaine and benzocaine, and

an aqueous or aqueous-based continuous phase comprising bupivacaine;

wherein the anesthetic emulsion is to be applied to the site of the damaged tissue.

13. The use of claim 12 wherein at least one of the lidocaine, benzocaine, and bupivacaine is to be released to the site of damaged tissue over a period of at least three days.

14. The use of claim 12, wherein the site of damaged tissue is a surgical site.

15. The use of claim 14, wherein the surgical site resides in the patient's mouth.

16. The use of claim 15, wherein the surgical site is a tooth socket.

17. The use of claim 12, wherein the site of damaged tissue is a site of injury.

18. The use of claim 17, wherein the site of injury comprises one or more lacerations.

19. The use of claim 12, wherein a ratio of lidocaine to benzocaine ranges from 1.5 to 3.

20. The use of claim 12, wherein the eutectic mixture further comprises menthol.

21. The use of claim 12, wherein the aqueous phase further comprises one or more gelling agents.

22. The use of claim 12, wherein the anesthetic emulsion has a viscosity of 3-5 Pa-s at 30^{o}C and a shear rate of 500/s.

23. The anesthetic emulsion of any of claims 1 to 11 for use as a medicament.