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Thompson

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[54] **CROSSLINKED HYDROGEL COMPOSITIONS WITH IMPROVED MECHANICAL PERFORMANCE**

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[58] **Field of Search** 524/916; 536/20, 536/21, 102, 106, 114, 123.1, 123.12, 124; 514/54, 55, 56, 57, 60; 623/1, 12, 900; 424/422, 423, 488

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

This invention provides a method of altering the water content of a hydrogel comprising treatment of said hydrogel with a liquid dehydrating composition. There is further provided a method of altering the water content of a hydrogel-containing medical device. The medical devices of the present invention comprise a hydrogel having a water level ex vivo lower than the thermodynamic equilibrium water level when in vivo. These medical devices comprise a hydrogel contacted with a liquid dehydrating agent, wherein said medical device has a lower water level ex vivo than the thermodynamic equilibrium water level when the medical device is in vivo.

13 Claims, No Drawings