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(54) **HIGH DRUG LOAD BUPRENORPHINE MICROSPHERES AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A sustained release microsphere formulation with a high drug load may be formed by a continuous oil-in-water emulsion process by combining an organic dispersed phase with an aqueous continuous phase. The dispersed phase may include an encapsulating polymer, a primary solvent, such as dichloromethane, a pharmaceutically effective amount of an active agent having a solubility relative to the dispersed phase, and a co-solvent, such as benzyl alcohol, which is capable of increasing the solubility of the active agent relative to the dispersed phase. The continuous phase may include an aqueous solution of polyvinyl alcohol and water.

13 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets