

- [54] **VISCOELASTIC MATERIAL FOR OPHTHALMIC SURGERY**
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[57] **ABSTRACT**  
 The present invention embodies a composition particularly adapted for use as an ophthalmic viscosurgical material for use in the anterior chamber of the eye consisting essentially of an aqueous solution preferably having a near physiological pH and osmolarity and containing at least about 1.5%, by weight, of a water soluble physiologically acceptable derivative of carboxymethylcellulose having a molecular weight greater than 500,000 and a degree of substitution (DS) greater than about 0.4, the aqueous solution having a viscosity greater than about 10,000 centipoises.

The invention further embodies an improved ophthalmic viscosurgical procedure wherein the anterior chamber of the eye is filled with a space-filling corneal endothelium and ocular tissue protective surgical material, the improvement comprising the utilization of an ophthalmic surgical material having the above described composition.

**17 Claims, No Drawings**