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**Clay et al.**

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(54) **CLONIDINE COMPOUNDS IN A BIODEGRADABLE MATRIX**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**  
Effective treatments of pain for extended periods of time are provided. Through the administration of an effective amount of clonidine in a matrix at or near a target site, one can relieve pain caused by diverse sources, including but not limited to spinal disc herniation (i.e. sciatica), spondilolthesis, stenosis, discogenic back pain and joint pain, as well as pain that is incidental to surgery. When appropriate matrix formulations are provided within biodegradable polymers, this pain relief can be continued for at least three days. In some embodiments, the relief can be for at least twenty-five days, at least fifty days, at least one hundred days, at least one hundred and thirty-five days or at least one hundred and eighty days.

**20 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets**

