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ments of the scope of the invention, which, as a matter of language, might be said to fall therebetween.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, which comprises administering to a patient suffering from the same, a rheumatoid arthritis treatment effective amount of a complex of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine complexed with gold or copper.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein penicillamine is used in said complex.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein N-acetyl penicillamine is used in said complex.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine is complexed with copper.

5. A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis, which comprises administering to a patient suffering from the same, a rheumatoid arthritis treatment effective amount of a mixture of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with a non-toxic water soluble salt of copper, the mole ratio of the penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine to the copper being between about 1.3-5:1.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein a complex of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with gold is used.

7. A composition for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a rheumatoid arthritis treatment effective amount of a complex of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with gold or copper.

8. A composition for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a rheumatoid arthritis treatment effective amount of a mixture of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with a non-toxic water soluble salt of copper, wherein the ratio of penicillamine and N-acetyl penicillamine to copper is between about 1.3-5:1.

9. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the complex is of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with copper.

10. A composition according to claim 7, wherein the complex is of penicillamine or N-acetyl penicillamine with a non-toxic water soluble salt of gold.

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