

(b) denatured collagen, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight, and in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is about 40,000 Daltons.

22. A method for inhibiting fibrosis at the site of a lesion in a mammal comprising administering a composition produced from a solution in which the concentration of dextran sulfate is in the range of about 2–20 mg/ml, to a site of a lesion in a mammal, said composition being effective to inhibit fibrosis at the site of administration, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight, and in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is about 40,000 Daltons.

23. A method of inhibiting peridural fibrosis in a mammal following laminectomy or discectomy, comprising administering a composition comprising an amount of dextran sulfate effective to inhibit peridural fibrosis at the site of administration, to a laminectomy or discectomy site in a mammal, in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is in the range of about 40,000 to 2,000,000 Daltons.

24. A method for inhibiting fibrosis around an implant in a mammal comprising administering a pharmaceutically acceptable polymer implant to a mammal, which polymer implant contains or is coated by an amount of dextran sulfate effective to inhibit fibrosis at the site of administration in the mammal, which implant is selected from the group consisting of nephrostomy tube, peritoneal drainage tube, artificial hip joint, artificial heart valve, peripheral nerve repair prosthesis and other prostheses, and in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is in the range of about 40,000 to 2,000,000 Daltons.

25. The method according to claim 24 in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

26. The method according to claim 23, 24 or 25 in which the mammal is a human.

27. The method according to claim 7 or 13 in which the mammal is a human.

28. A composition comprising a solution in which the concentration of dextran sulfate is in the range of about 2–20 mg/ml, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight, and a pharmaceutically acceptable surgical implant, which implant consists essentially of a polymer.

29. A composition comprising a denatured collagen gel, said gel comprising an amount of dextran sulfate effective to inhibit fibrosis in a mammal, in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is in the range of about 40,000 to 2,000,000 Daltons.

30. The composition of claim 29 in which said gel is produced from a solution in which the concentration of dextran sulfate is in the range of about 2–20 mg/ml.

31. The composition of claim 29 in which the average molecular weight of the dextran sulfate is about 40,000 Daltons.

32. A composition comprising a dextran gel, said gel comprising an amount of dextran sulfate effective to inhibit fibrosis in a mammal.

33. The composition of claim 1, 19, or 20 in which the fibrosis is a surgical adhesion.

34. The method according to claim 7, 13, or 23 in which the fibrosis is a surgical adhesion.

35. The method according to claim 5 in which the composition is produced from a solution in which the concentration of dextran sulfate is in the range of 2–20 mg/ml.

36. The method according to claim 13 or 23 in which the mammal is a human, and said composition further comprises a denatured collagen gel.

37. The method according to claim 7 or 13, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

38. The method according to claim 23, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

39. The method according to claim 36 in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

40. The composition of claim 2, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

41. The composition of claim 19, 20, or 32, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

42. The method according to claim 5 in which the lesion is a surgical lesion.

43. The method according to claim 5 in which the lesion results from a traumatic injury.

44. The method according to claim 5 or 22 in which the mammal is a human.

45. The composition of claim 29 in which the fibrosis is a surgical adhesion.

46. The method according to claim 5 or 22 in which the fibrosis is a surgical adhesion.

47. The method according to claim 5, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

48. The composition according to claim 29, in which the sulfur content of the dextran sulfate is greater than about 10% by weight.

49. The method according to claim 42, in which the surgical lesion results from a laminectomy, fallopian tube surgery or surgery to treat temporomandibular joint dysfunction.

50. The method according to claim 42, in which the surgical lesion results from abdominal surgery, joint surgery, tendon surgery, surgery to remove pelvic sidewall adhesions, peritoneal surgery, thoracic surgery, vascular surgery, cardiac surgery, heart bypass surgery, heart valve replacement surgery, open heart surgery or peripheral nerve surgery.

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