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DESCRIPTION OF FIGURES

FIG. **1** Levels of general metalloprotease activity in articular cartilage and synovial membrane of dogs. Values are units/gms of tissue wet weight (w.w.). P values are versus the 10 week OA group, by Mann-Whitney U test.

FIG. **2** Levels of collagenase activity in the cartilage and synovial membrane of dogs. Values are units/gms of tissue wet weight (w.w.). P values are versus the 10 week OA group, by Mann-Whitney U test.

We claim:

1. A method of modulating IL-1β levels in a patient in need of such modulation comprising administering a therapeutic effective amount of N-iminoethyl-L-lysine to said patient.

2. A method of decreasing the amount of synovial fluid in a patient in need thereof by administering an effective amount of N-iminoethyl-L-lysine.

3. A method of treating osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutic effective amount of N-iminoethyl-L-lysine, wherein the severity of said osteoarthritis is reduced.

4. The method of claim **3** wherein at least one lesion related to said osteoarthritis is reduced in size.

5. The method of claim **3** wherein the matrix disorganization of cartilage in said patient due to said osteoarthritis is modified.

6. A method of modulating osteophyte formation and development in a patient in need thereof comprising administering a therapeutic effective amount of N-iminoethyl-L-lysine.