

**[54] PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITIONS  
CONTAINING BIODEGRADABLE  
POLYMERS**

**[75] Inventors:** Heinrich Deibig, Frankfurt; Roland Reiner, Eschborn, both of Fed. Rep. of Germany; Hendricus B. A. Welle, Maarssen, Netherlands

**[73] Assignee:** Sandoz Ltd., Basel, Switzerland

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*Primary Examiner*—Leonard Schenkman

*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Gerald D. Sharkin; Robert S. Honor; Walter F. Jewell

**[57]**

**ABSTRACT**

Polymers formed by incomplete esterification of the hydroxy groups of a water-soluble polymer such as polyvinyl alcohol, amylose or dextran with a pharmacologically acceptable mono- or di-carboxylic acid to an extent sufficient to render the polymer water-insoluble although still water-swellable, are biodegradable. They are useful for the formulation of pharmaceutical compositions for parenteral administration, particularly in the form of injectable fine particles in which a drug is intimately mixed with or encapsulated by the polymer.

**8 Claims, No Drawings**