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Baranowitz

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(54) **BETA-CAROTENE THERAPY OF INDIVIDUALS HAVING ABNORMAL IMMUNOLOGICAL AND SEROLOGICAL INDICES, AND INDIVIDUALS HAVING INFECTIONS AND DISEASES CAUSING CHANGES THEREIN**

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(52) **U.S. Cl.** **514/764**; 514/765
(58) **Field of Search** 514/764, 765

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Methods for raising or maintaining the level of T4 cells in humans having a depressed T4 cell level and particularly in humans infected with HIV are provided. In these embodiments, T4 enhancing amounts of beta-carotene are administered. Methods are also provided for lowering or maintaining the levels of neopterin and/or β_2-microglobulin in humans having elevated levels of these indices and particularly in those infected with HIV. Beta-carotene is administered, respectively, in neopterin and β_2-microglobulin therapeutically effective amounts. Also contemplated by the present invention are methods for the prevention and/or treatment of HIV infection in humans. An HIV infection preventing or an anti-HIV therapeutically effective amount of beta-carotene is administered. In another embodiment, methods are provided for preventing or treating AIDS in humans. An AIDS preventing amount or an anti-AIDS therapeutically effective amount of beta-carotene is administered.

14 Claims, No Drawings