

[54] **PEG-MODIFIED ANTIBODY WITH REDUCED AFFINITY FOR CELL SURFACE FC RECEPTORS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

PEG-modified protein molecules characterized by reduced immunogenicity are prepared by covalent modification of the protein with PEG employing an active ester intermediate. Antibodies so modified exhibit decreased binding capacity for Fc cell surface receptors, are non-toxic and retain full antigen binding activity, and are consequently useful in a variety of immunologically-based diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

**22 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures**