

128/660

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# United States Patent [19]

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Perrault et al.

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[54] METHODS FOR DETECTING DEHYDRATION OF A BIOMEDICAL HYDROGEL

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[58] Field of Search ..... 128/639-641, 128/798, 802, 803, 303.13, 660; 604/20, 111, 404, 318

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[57] ABSTRACT

A visual (as opposed to mechanical or electronic) method for detecting the state of dehydration (or hydration) of a biomedical hydrogel is disclosed. The method contemplates incorporating a pH sensitive indicator into the hydrogel as it is prepared and applying the hydrogel to the skin-contacting surface of a biomedical device such as an electrode. Shortly before the biomedical device is to be used, the color of the hydrogel on the device is visually compared with its freshly-prepared color to determine the approximate state of dehydration of the gel.

10 Claims, No Drawings