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[54] **WATER-INSOLUBLE DERIVATIVES OF HYALURONIC ACID AND THEIR METHODS OF PREPARATION AND USE**

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Related U.S. Application Data

[60] Continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 809,399, Dec. 18, 1991, abandoned, which is a division of Ser. No. 388,578, Aug. 1, 1989, abandoned.

[51] **Int. Cl.⁵** **A61K 31/725**; A61K 31/735; A61K 47/26; C08L 1/00

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **514/54**; 514/777; 424/7.1; 424/488; 536/4.1

[58] **Field of Search** 514/777, 54; 424/7.1, 424/488; 536/4.1; 252/315.3

[57] ABSTRACT

This invention describes a method for preparing water-insoluble biocompatible gels, films and sponges by reacting hyaluronic acid, or a salt thereof, with a carbodiimide in the absence of a nucleophile or a polyanionic polysaccharide. The water-insoluble gels, films and sponges of this invention may be used as surgical aids to prevent adhesions of body tissues and as drug delivery vehicles.

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6 Claims, No Drawings