disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

4. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus mutans bacteria in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains stabilized chlorine dioxide in a concentration range of between about 0.005%–0.5% and a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate in a concentration in the range of between about 0.02%–3.0% to retard escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

5. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus mutans bacteria in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

6. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus sanguis bacteria in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains stabilized chlorine dioxide in a concentration in the range of between about 0.005%–0.5% and a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate in a concentration in the range of between about 0.02%–3.0% to retard escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

7. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus sanguis bacteria in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

8. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of yeasts including candida albicans in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains stabilized chlorine dioxide in a concentration range of between about 0.005%–0.5% and a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate in a concentration in the range of between about 0.02%–3.0% to retard escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

9. A composition for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of yeasts including candida albicans in the mouth, said composition comprising a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from said composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of said composition.

10. A method for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of bacteria in the mouth, said method comprising the step of applying a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains stabilized chlorine dioxide in a concentration in the range of between about 0.005%–0.5% and a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate in a concentration in the range of between about 0.02%–3.0% to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from the composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of the composition.

11. The method as set forth in claim **10** wherein the concentration of stabilized chlorine dioxide is approximately 0.2% and the concentration of phosphate is approximately 1.0%.

12. A method for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of bacteria in the mouth, said method comprising the step of applying a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from the composition at a pH in the range 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of the composition.

13. A method for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus mutans bacteria in the mouth, said method comprising the step of applying a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from the composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of the composition.

14. A method for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of streptococcus sanguis bacteria in the mouth, said method comprising the step of applying a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from the composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of the composition.

15. A method for preventing and treating dental disease by reducing the number of yeasts including candida albicans in the mouth, said method comprising the step of applying a non sudsing dentifrice, wherein the dentifrice contains at least 0.1% stabilized chlorine dioxide and at least 0.05% of a phosphate compound selected from the group consisting of disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, and trisodium phosphate to retard the escape of chlorine dioxide from the composition at a pH in the range of 6.0 to 7.4, thereby increasing the shelf life and efficacy of the composition.

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