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(54) Title: SYNERGISTIC ANTIMICROBIAL OPHTHALMIC AND DERMATOLOGIC PREPARATIONS CONTAINING CHLORITE AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

(57) Abstract: An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition for direct application onto an eye of a living being. The composition includes from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8. Preferably, the chlorite compound is a metal chlorite where the metal is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, while the peroxy compound is hydrogen peroxide. Also included are methods for treating an eye infection through application of the composition to the eye, and for cleansing a contact lens in place on an eye through application of the composition to the lens.

SYNERGISTIC ANTIMICROBIAL OPHTHALMIC AND DERMATOLOGIC PREPARATIONS CONTAINING CHLORITE AND HYDROGEN PEROXIDE

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent application Serial No. 09/412,174, filed October 4, 1999.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to medical compositions and methods, and more particularly to certain disinfectant/antimicrobial preparations and methods for using such preparations i) to disinfect or preserve articles or surfaces, ii) as a topical antiseptic for application to body parts, iii) to prevent or deter scar formation; iv) to treat dermatological disorders such as wounds, burns, ulcers, psoriasis, acne and other scar forming lesions; and v) to treat ophthalmic disorders such as infections, inflamation, dry eye, wound healing, and allergic conjunctivities.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A. Antimicrobial and Disinfectant/Antiseptic Agents Used for Disinfection/Antisepsis and Topical Treatment of Wounds, Burns, Abrasions and Infections

The prior art has included numerous antimicrobial agents which have purportedly been useable for disinfection of various articles and/or for topical application to a living being for antisepsis and/or treatment of dermal disorders (e.g., wounds, burns, abrasions, infections) wherein it is desirable to prevent or deter microbial growth to aid in healing. Such topical antimicrobial agents have contained a variety of active microbicidal

ingredients such as iodine, mercurochrome, hydrogen peroxide, and chlorine dioxide.

i. Prior Chlorine Dioxide Preparations

Chlorite, a precursor of chlorine dioxide, is known to be useable as a disinfectant for drinking water and as a preservative for contact lens care solutions. However, chlorite exhibits only weak microbicidal activity within a concentration range that is acceptable and safe for topical application to the skin (e.g., 50-1000 parts per million). Thus, chlorite has not been routinely used as an active microbicidal ingredient in preparations for topical application to the skin.

In view of the limited usefulness of chlorite as an antiseptic or topical microbicide, various compositions and methods have been proposed for activation or enhancement of the microbicidal activity of chlorite. Examples of such compositions and methods for activation or enhancement of the microbicidal activity of chlorite are described in United States Patent Nos. 4,997,616 (describing general activation); 5,279,673 (describing acid activation) and 5,246,662 (describing transitional metal activation).

Chlorine dioxide (ClO_2) and "stabilized chlorine dioxide" are known to be useable as antiseptics. Chemically, chlorine dioxide is an oxidizing agent which has strong microbicidal activity. Chlorine dioxide is generally regarded as superior even to gaseous chlorine in certain water treatment applications where it is used as to eliminate algae and other organic material and/or to remove odors or tastes. Chlorine dioxide is also effective as a microbicide, for elimination of bacteria, viruses, and microbial spores.

In addition to its use as a microbicide, chlorine dioxide is a highly reactive, unstable radical which is useable as an oxidizing agent in a number of other chemical and biochemical applications. For example, as described in United States Patent No. 4,855,135, chlorine dioxide can be used for (a) oxidation of double bonds between two carbon atoms; (b) oxidation of unsaturated fatty acids (lipids)

via double bonds between two carbon atoms; (c) acceleration of hydrolysis of carboxylic anhydrides; (d) oxidation of aldehydes to the corresponding carboxylic acids; (e) oxidation of alcohols; (f) oxidation of amines; (g) oxidation of phenols, phenolic derivatives and thiophenolic compounds; (h) moderate oxidation of hydroquinones; (i) oxidation of amino acids, proteins and polyamides; j) oxidation of nitrates and sulfides; and (k) alteration of the CHO and CH_2OH radicals of carbohydrates to produce carboxylic functionality.

Concentrated chlorine dioxide in its liquid or gaseous state is highly explosive and poisonous. As a result, concentrated chlorine dioxide must be handled and transported with great caution. For this reason, it is generally not feasible to dispense pure chlorine dioxide for use as a topical antimicrobial agent or disinfectant. Instead, some antimicrobial or disinfectant preparations have been formulated to provide for "acid generation" of chlorine dioxide. Such acid generation solutions contain a metal chlorite (i.e., a precursor of chlorine dioxide available in powdered or liquid form) in combination with an acid which will react with the chlorite to liberate or release chlorine dioxide. Generally, any acid may be used for acid generation of chlorine dioxide, including strong acids such as hydrochloric acid and sulfuric acid and relatively weak acids such as citric and tartaric acid. Drawbacks or problems associated with these prior chlorine dioxide generating systems include a) the inconvenience of handing two separate containers or chemical components, b) the difficulty of delivering such two-component systems to the intended site of application, and c) the fact that these prior systems are of acid, rather than neutral, pH. Moreover, the prior chlorine dioxide generating systems which utilize acid-induced generation of chlorine dioxide can, if uncontrolled, cause the generation of chlorine dioxide to occur quite rapidly and, as a result, the disinfectant or antimicrobial potency of the solution may be short lived. Increasing the concentration of chlorite

and acid within the solution may prolong its disinfectant or antimicrobial shelf life, but such increased concentrations of these chemicals can result in toxicities or (in topical applications) skin irritation. Such increased concentrations may also result in the generation of more chlorine dioxide than is required.

Various methods have been described to limit or control the rate at which chlorine dioxide is produced in "acid generation" solutions. For instance, United States Patent No. Re. 31,779 (Alliger) describes a germicidal composition which comprises a water soluble chlorite, such as sodium chlorite, in combination with lactic acid. The particular composition possesses improved disinfectant properties, properties not attained by using the same composition but replacing the lactic acid with other acids such as phosphoric acid, acetic acid, sorbic acid, fumaric acid, sulfamic acid, succinic acid, boric acid, tannic acid, and citric acid. The germ killing composition is produced by contacting an acid material containing at least 15% by weight of lactic acid with sodium chlorite in aqueous media, the amount of lactic acid being sufficient to lower the pH of the aqueous media to less than about 7. The methods disclosed of disinfecting and sanitizing a germ-carrying substrate, such as skin, include either application of the germ-killing composition, or application of the reactants to provide *in situ* production thereof. Also, United States Patent No. 5,384,134 (Kross) describes acid induced generation of chlorine dioxide from a metal chlorite wherein the chlorite concentration is limited by the amount of available chlorous acid. In particular, the Kross patent describes a method for treating dermal disorders wherein a first gel, which comprises a metal chlorite, is mixed with a second gel, which comprises a protic acid. The chlorite ions present in such solution as chlorous acid purportedly comprise no more than about 15% by weight of the total chlorite ion concentration in the composition, and the mixture of the two gels purportedly

generates chlorine dioxide over an extended time of up to 24 hours.

Other prior patents have purported to describe the use of "stabilized" chlorine dioxide as a means of chlorine dioxide generation. The term stabilized chlorine dioxide refers to various compositions in which the chlorine dioxide is believed to be held in solution in the form of a labile complex. The stabilization of chlorine dioxide by the use of perborates was disclosed in United States Patent No. 2,701,781 (de Guevara). According to the de Guevara patent, an antiseptic solution of stabilized chlorine dioxide can be formed from an aqueous solution of chlorine dioxide and an inorganic boron compound with the boron compound and the chlorine dioxide being present in the solution as a labile complex. The chlorine dioxide, fixed in this stable condition, is an essential ingredient of the antiseptic solution. The de Guevara patent discloses that the chlorine dioxide may be introduced into the compositions either by *in situ* generation or it may be generated externally and introduced into the solution, as by bubbling the chlorine dioxide gas into the aqueous solution. Various methods may be employed for the external production of the chlorine dioxide, such as reaction of sulfuric acid with potassium chlorate or the reaction of the chlorate with moist oxalic acid. Alternatively, chlorine dioxide can be generated *in situ* by reaction of potassium chlorate and sulfuric acid. Note that whether the chlorine dioxide is produced *in situ* or externally, it is essentially an acid-induced liberation of the chlorine dioxide from potassium chlorate.

United States Patent No. 4,317,814 (Laso) describes stabilized chlorine dioxide preparations for treatment of burns in humans. Aqueous mixtures of perborate stabilized solutions of chlorine oxides, such as chlorine dioxide, in combination with glycerin are described for topical application to burned areas and may also be administered by oral application for treatment of burns. The aqueous solutions of perborate stabilized chlorine oxides are

disclosed as being prepared by mixing with water the following: sodium chlorite, sodium hypochlorite, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, an inorganic perborate, and a peroxy compound, such as sodium perborate. Thus, the solutions prepared in accordance with the Laso patent contain chlorine dioxide, hypochlorite and peroxy compounds as strong oxidizing agents and appear to utilize acid activation of the chlorine dioxide. The Laso patent states that the methods disclosed therein resulted in an immediate subsidence of burn related pain in many cases, that healing was rapid and characterized by an absence of infection or contraction, and that the burn scars were smooth and resembled normal tissue, thus eliminating the need for plastic surgery in certain cases. However, long term storage and stability are issues with the aqueous solutions described in the above-identified Laso patent, because such mixtures tend to generate chlorine dioxide very quickly, thus diminishing the long term stability of such mixtures.

United States Patent No. 3,271,242 (McNicholas et al.,) describes stabilized chlorine dioxide solutions which are formed by combining chlorine dioxide gas with an aqueous solution containing a peroxy compound, and subsequently heating the solution to a temperature which is high enough to drive off all free peroxide, but low enough not to destroy the chlorine dioxide. McNicholas et al., states that temperatures "much below" 70 degrees C are ineffective to drive off the free peroxide in the solution and that temperatures should not exceed 92 degrees C because at higher temperatures the chlorine dioxide will be driven off. McNicholas further states that, although not "entirely understood," it was believed that heating of the solution to drive off free peroxide was necessary because any free hydrogen peroxide allowed to remain in the solution would act as a leaching agent to release the chlorine dioxide from the solution.

ii. Antibiotic Preparations

Antibiotic compounds have also been commonly used for the therapeutic treatment of burns, wounds, and skin and eye infections. While antibiotics may provide an effective form of treatment, several dangers are often associated with the use of antibiotics in the clinical environment. These dangers may include but are not limited to: (1) changes in the normal flora of the body, with resulting "superinfection" due to overgrowth of antibiotic resistant organisms; (2) direct antibiotic toxicity, particularly with prolonged use which can result in damage to kidneys, liver and neural tissue depending upon the type of antibiotic; (3) development of antibiotic resistant microbial populations which defy further treatment by antibiotics.

B. Difficult-To-Treat Dermal Disorders Other Than Wounds, Burns, Abrasions and Infections

While even minor wounds and abscesses can be difficult to treat in certain patients and/or under certain conditions, there are well known dermal disorders such as psoriasis and dermal ulcerations, which present particular challenges for successful treatment.

i. Psoriasis

Psoriasis is a noncontagious skin disorder that most commonly appears as inflamed swollen skin lesions covered with silvery white scale. This most common type of psoriasis is called "plaque psoriasis". Psoriasis comes in many different variations and degrees of severity. Different types of psoriasis display characteristics such as pus-like blisters (pustular psoriasis), severe sloughing of the skin (erythrodermic psoriasis), drop-like dots (guttate psoriasis) and smooth inflamed lesions (inverse psoriasis).

The cause of psoriasis is not presently known, though it is generally accepted that it has a genetic component, and it has recently been established that it is an autoimmune skin disorder. Approximately one in three

people report a family history of psoriasis, but there is no pattern of inheritance. There are many cases in which children with no apparent family history of the disease will develop psoriasis.

The occurrence of psoriasis in any individual may depend on some precipitating event or "trigger factor". Examples of "trigger factors" believed to affect the occurrence of psoriasis include systemic infections such as strep throat, injury to the skin (the Koebner phenomenon), vaccinations, certain medications, and intramuscular injections or oral steroid medications. Once something triggers a person's genetic tendency to develop psoriasis, it is thought that in turn, the immune system triggers the excessive skin cell reproduction.

Skin cells are programmed to follow two possible programs: normal growth or wound healing. In a normal growth pattern, skin cells are created in the basal cell layer, and then move up through the epidermis to the stratum corneum, the outermost layer of the skin. Dead cells are shed from the skin at about the same rate as new cells are produced, maintaining a balance. This normal process takes about 28 days from cell birth to death. When skin is wounded, a wound healing program is triggered, also known as regenerative maturation. Cells are produced at a much faster rate, theoretically to replace and repair the wound. There is also an increased blood supply and localized inflammation. In many ways, psoriatic skin is similar to skin healing from a wound or reacting to a stimulus such as infection.

Lesional psoriasis is characterized by cell growth in the alternate growth program. Although there is no wound at a psoriatic lesion, skin cells (called "keratinocytes") behave as if there is. These keratinocytes switch from the normal growth program to regenerative maturation. Cells are created and pushed to the surface in as little as 2-4 days, and the skin cannot shed the cells fast enough. The excessive skin cells build up and form elevated, scaly lesions. The white scale (called "plaque") that usually

covers the lesion is composed of dead skin cells, and the redness of the lesion is caused by increased blood supply to the area of rapidly dividing skin cells.

Although there is no known cure for psoriasis, various treatments have been demonstrated to provide temporary relief in some patients. However, the effectiveness of the currently accepted treatments for psoriasis is subject to considerable individual variation. As a result, patients and their physicians may have to experiment and/or combine therapies in order to discover the regimen that is most effective. The currently available treatments for psoriasis are often administered in step-wise fashion. Step 1 treatments include a) topical medications (e.g., topical steroids, topical retinoids), b) systemic steroids, c) coal tar, d) anthralin, e) vitamin D3, and sunshine. Step 2 treatments include a) phototherapy (e.g, ultraviolet radiation), b) photochemotherapy (e.g., a combination of a topically applied radiation-activated agent followed by radiation to activate the agent) and c) combination therapy. Step 3 treatments include a) systemic drug therapies such as methotrexate, oral retinoids and cyclosporin and b) rotational therapy.

ii. Dermal Ulcerations

Dermal ulcerations are known to occur as a result of pressure, wear, or primary/secondary vascular disorders. Dermal ulcerations are generally classified according to their etiology, as follows:

a. Decubitus/Pressure Ulcers - A decubitus ulcer or pressure sore is a lesion caused by unrelieved pressure resulting in damage of the underlying tissue. Decubitus ulcers usually develop over a bony prominence such as the elbow or hip. The unrelieved pressure, along with numerous contributing factors, leads to the skin breakdown and persistent ulcerations.

b. Venous Ulcers - Venous ulcers may result from trauma or develop after chronic venous insufficiency (CVI). In CVI, venous valves do not close completely, allowing blood to flow back from the deep venous system through the

perforator veins into the superficial venous system. Over time, the weight of this column of blood causes fluid and protein to exude into surrounding tissues, resulting in swollen, hyperpigmented ankles, tissue breakdown, and ulceration. Venous ulcers may be shallow or extend deep into muscle.

c. Arterial Ulcers - Leg ulcers also can develop in patients with arterial insufficiency caused by arterial vessel compression or obstruction, vessel wall changes, or chronic vasoconstriction. Smokers face an especially high risk of arterial disease because nicotine constricts arteries, encourages deposits of atherosclerotic plaque, and exacerbates inflammatory arterial disease (Buerger's disease) and vasoconstrictive disease (Raynaud's disease or phenomenon). Arterial ulcers, caused by trauma to an ischemic limb, can be very painful.

d. Diabetic Ulcers - Arterial insufficiency can be the cause of a nonhealing ulcer in a patient with diabetes. However, most diabetic ulcers result from diabetic neuropathy--because the patient cannot feel pain in his foot, he is unaware of injuries, pressure from too-tight shoes, or repetitive stress that can lead to skin breakdown.

There remains a need in the art for the formulation and development of new disinfectants and topically applicable preparations for the treatment of dermal disorders, such as wounds, burns, abrasions, infections, ulcerations, psoriasis and acne.

C. Contact Lens Soaking and Disinfection.

Whenever a contact lens is removed from an eye, it should be placed in a soaking and disinfecting solution until it is worn again. Soaking and disinfecting solutions have the following functions:

1. Aid in cleaning the lens of ocular secretions after the lens is removed form the eye;

2. To prevent eye infections by a bacterial contaminated lens; and

3. To maintain the state of hydrated equilibrium, which the lens achieves while it is being worn.

D. Contact Lens Cleaning.

During lens wear mucus material, lipids and proteins accumulate on contact lenses, making lens wear uncomfortable due to irritation, burning sensation, and redness. Accordingly, vision becomes blurry. To alleviate the discomforting problem, the soft or rigid contact lenses should be taken out of the eye, to be cleaned and disinfected regularly, using an enzymatic cleaner and a disinfecting solution. One of the serious complications associated with soft lenses can be a Giant Papillary Conjunctivitis (GPC). It is believed to be that the occurrence of the giant papillary conjunctivitis is mostly due to an inflammatory reaction associated with soft contact lens complication. This is almost always caused by protein deposits on contact lenses. GPC produces symptoms ranging from asymptomatic to itching, upper eye-lid edema, red eye, mucoid discharge, progressive contact lens intolerance. The in-the-eye cleaner of the present invention effectively cleans the protein deposits and maintains corneal epithelial cells healthy by keeping the corneal surface from microbial infection as well as by supplying molecular oxygen. Thereby, it provides convenience and benefits to both soft and rigid contact lens wearers.

E. Treatment of Ophthalmic Disorders.

i. Dry Eye

Dry eye is a syndrome in which tear production is inadequate or tear composition is inappropriate to properly wet the cornea and conjunctiva. A variety of disorders of the ocular tears causes sensations of dryness of the eyes, discomfort of presence of a foreign object to occur in the eye. In most instances, the tear film loses its normal continuity and breaks up rapidly so that it cannot maintain its structure during the interval between spontaneous

blinks. All of those tear abnormalities may have multiple causes. Perhaps the most common form of dry eye is due to a decreased aqueous component in the tears. Untreated dry eye can be further deteriorated to produce more severe epithelial erosion, strands of epithelial cells, and local dry spots on the cornea, which can be further complicated by microbial infection. In its mild form, however, a feeling of dryness and irritation of the eye can be solved with artificial tears. Thus, artificial tear solution which has a broad spectrum antimicrobial activity with corneal lubricating property, can provide not only comfort but also beneficial effects on recovery of damaged corneal surface.

ii. Allergic Conjunctivitis

Airborne or hand borne allergens usually produce allergic conjunctivitis due to IgE-mediated hypersensitivity reaction. It presents itching, tearing, dry and sticky eyes, including lid-swelling, conjunctival hyperemia, papillary reaction, chemosin, and ropy mucoid discharge. The presence of hyaluronic acid in the tear, which is included in the formulation of artificial tear, would protect corneal surface from contacting the allergens. The broad spectrum antimicrobial agent of the present invention keeps the corneal surface from bacterial infection and also maintains the corneal epithelial cells healthy by supplying molecular oxygen. Thus, it provides beneficial effects on the eyes sensitive to allergens.

iii. Bacterial Invasion

Bacterial keratitis is one of the leading causes of blindness in the world. In the United States, an estimated 30,000 cases occur annually, with the popularity of contact lens wear having contributed to a rising incidence in the developed world. Statistical investigation indicates that about 30 of every 100,000 contact lens wearers develop ulcerative keratitis annually in the United States, thus making the disease a significant public health issue in view of potential blindness that can occur. While eyelids, blinking of the eyelids, and corneal and conjunctival

epithelial cells provide barriers to microbial invasion, one or more of these defense mechanisms can become compromised. Such compromises can include lid abnormalities, exposure of the corneal surface, poor tear production, epithelial problems, medication toxicity, trauma, and incisional surgery. Ocular manifestations of bacterial keratitis are found in *staphylococcus* and *streptococcus* infections that tend to cause severe infiltration and necrosis which over time can lead to perforation. *Pseudomonal* keratitis tends to progress rapidly. This organism produces destructive enzymes, such as protease, lipase, and elastase, and exotoxins, which result in necrotic ulceration and perforation. *Serratia* keratitis starts as a superficial para-central ulcer, with the secretion of exotoxins and protease which can produce aggressive ulceration and perforation. In order for the bacterial keratitis to become established, microbial adhesions must bind to host cell receptors. Once this attachment has occurred, the destructive process of inflamation, necrosis, and angiogenesis can ensue.

[0001] Present treatment for bacterial keratitis relies primarily upon the use of broad spectrum antibiotic therapy. Such antibiotics include sulfonamides, trimethaprin, and quinolones. Also included are beta-lactams, penicillins, cephalasporins, aminoglycosides, tetracyclines, chloramphenicol, and erythromycin. While such antibiotics are in wide spread use, they can also become misused where antibiotic resistant pathogens emerge. Additionally, antibiotics only halt the proliferation of bacteria, but do not inhibit the activity of protease enzymes, endotoxins, or exotoxins. As is therefore apparent, a significant need is present for a bactericidal agent that addresses the proliferation of not only bacteria, but also protease enzymes, endotoxins and exotoxins.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention provides antimicrobial preparations (e.g., solutions, gels, ointments, creams, etc.) for disinfection of articles or surfaces (e.g., contact lenses, counter tops, etc.), antisepsis of skin or other body parts, prevention or minimization of scarring, and/or treatment or prophylaxis of dermal (i.e., skin or mucous membrane) disorders (e.g., wounds, burns, infections, cold sores, ulcerations, psoriasis, scar forming lesions, acne), and the treatment of ophthalmic disorders (e.g., infection, inflamation, dry eye, allergic conjunctivitis, and wound healing). The antimicrobial preparations of this invention generally comprise from about 0.001% to about 0.20% by weight of a metal chlorite in combination with from 0.001% to 0.05% of a peroxy compound such as hydrogen peroxide. Additionally, the chlorite/peroxide preparations of the present invention may contain additional components such as polymeric lubricants and surfactants, and/or may be formulated in a polymeric drug delivery system or liposomal preparation. The chlorite/peroxide preparations of the present invention have broad antimicrobial activity, including for example activity against gram negative and gram positive bacteria, yeasts and fungi. Moreover, when applied or administered to treat dermal disorders (e.g., wounds, burns, infections, ulcerations, acne and psoriasis), the chlorite/peroxide preparations of the present invention will not only prevent or lessen microbial infection, but will additionally provide oxygen to the affected tissue, aid in healing and deter scar formation.

[0003] Further, in accordance with the invention, there are provided methods for disinfection of items (e.g., contact lenses) and methods for treatment of dermal disorders (e.g., wounds, burns, infections, ulcerations and psoriasis) by application or administration of a chlorite/peroxide preparation of the present invention. With respect to contact lens disinfecting solution, as well as product formulations that will clean contact lenses in

the eye without removing the lenses from the eye for cleaning, the concentration of the metal chlorite is between about 0.002% to about 0.20%. With respect to in-eye application, the present bactericidal product is a sterile, isotonic, buffered, clear, colorless solution that additionally contains polymeric lubricant and surfactant. The product has a two-year shelf life at room temperature as a stabilized peroxy chloral complex of chlorite and peroxide.

[0004] In addition, the invention includes product formulations shown to have efficacy in the treatment of dry eye, wound healing, and allergic conjunctivitis.

[0005] Further in accordance with the invention, there are provided methods for deterring scar formation by application or administration of a chlorite/peroxide preparation of the present invention.

[0006] Further, in accordance with the invention, there are provided product formulations shown to have supra-additive efficacy in broad spectrum antimicrobial activity.

[0007] Furthermore, in accordance with the invention, there are provided methods for deterring eye infections, eye perforations and inflamation by application or administration of a chlorite/peroxide preparation of the present invention.

[0008] Further aspects and objects of the present invention will become apparent to those of skill in the art upon reading and understanding of the following detailed description and the examples set forth therein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0009] The following detailed description and examples are provided for the purpose of describing certain exemplary embodiments of the invention only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way.

[0010] The present invention provides preparations which contain chlorite (e.g., a metal chlorite) in combination with a small amount of hydrogen peroxide in neutral aqueous (pH 7.0 - 7.8, preferably pH 7.0 - 7.4) solution. These

preparations exhibit synergistic antimicrobial activity without generating chlorine dioxide during storage, thereby rendering the stability of these solutions acceptable for pharmaceutical use. For example, an aqueous solution containing 400 ppm chlorite plus 100 ppm hydrogen peroxide remains stable beyond 18 months at room temperature, and is effective to reduce *candida albicans* activity by 1.0 log within six hours of challenge, even though the individual components of such solution are ineffective when applied separately at the same concentrations to reduce *candida albicans* activity. Additionally, the hydrogen peroxide present within the chlorite/peroxide solutions of the present invention readily decomposes into molecular oxygen and water, upon contact with the peroxidase and catalase enzymes present in tissue and/or some body fluids. Such *in situ* generation of molecular oxygen contributes to cell vitality and enhances wound healing.

[0011] The chlorite/H_2O_2 solutions of the present invention are sufficiently stable to be formulated in combination with polymeric lubricants (non-ionic and/or anionic; e.g., HPMC, Methocel, CMC, hyaluronic acid, etc.,) and/or in combination with block polymer based surfactants (e.g., pluronics). For example, an aqueous chlorite/hydrogen peroxide system can be formulated together with methocel or hyaluronic acid as a lubricant and pluronics as a surfactant for contact lens disinfectant solution (viscosity up to 50 cps at 25 degrees C) in an ophthalmically acceptable tonicity (e.g., osmolality of at least about 200 mOsmol/kg) and a buffer to maintain the pH of the formulation within an acceptable physiological range. The formulation of the contact lens disinfection solution, artificial tear solution, and in-eye cleaner solution, contains chlorite preferably from about 0.005 to about 0.06 weight/volume percent and hydrogen peroxide preferably from about 0.0002 to about 0.05 weight/volume percent. Again, the presence of hydrogen peroxide provides the beneficial oxygen molecule to the cornea upon contact with catalase in the tear.

A. Formulations

[0012] The chlorite/peroxide preparations of the present invention may be formulated in various ways, including liquid solutions, gels, ointments, creams, sprays, etc. Set forth herebelow are a few examples of the types of specific formulations which may be prepared in accordance with this invention.

i. A Stable Chlorite/Peroxide Liquid Solution

[0013] The following Formula 1 is a presently preferred formulation of a liquid chlorite/peroxide solution of the present invention:

[0014] FORMULA 1

Sodium Chlorite	0.005% - 0.10%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.005% - 0.05%
Methocel A	0.05% - 0.2%
Boric Acid	0.15%
Sodium Chloride	0.75%
Pluronic F-68/F-127 . .	0.1%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH 7.4
Purified water	Q.S. to volume

[0015] The chlorite/peroxide solutions of the present invention, such as the solution of the above-shown preferred formulation, may be used for a variety of medical and non-medical applications including but not necessarily limited to a) disinfection of articles and surfaces such as contact lenses, medical/dental instruments, counter tops, treatment tables, combs and brushes, etc.; antisepsis of skin or body parts (e.g., a disinfectant hand wash, antiseptic facial scrub, etc.,) and b) treatment or prophylaxis of dermal (i.e., skin or mucous membrane) disorders such as wounds, burns, infections, ulcerations, cold sores, psoriasis, acne, and c) deterrence or prevention of scar formation.

[0016] As pointed out earlier, the chlorite/hydrogen peroxide system of the present invention is sufficiently stable to be formulated in a polymeric gel form or in a paste form. Furthermore, such polymeric gel or paste formulation can contain polymers which delay or control the release of the chlorite/hydrogen peroxide (e.g., a sustained release delivery system). Such sustained release

formulations provide outstanding benefits of increasing therapeutic index by maintaining the effective concentration of chlorite/H_2O_2 for a prolonged time on the injured sites, by preventing the injured sites from external microbial contamination by forming a seal over the injured sites, and by providing oxygen molecule to the injured tissues. Unlike the conventional ointment, the polymeric gel provides a dry, clean, and comfortable coating on the injured sites upon application. Such gel formulations may contain polymeric drug delivery vehicles like hydroxypropyl methylcellulose (HPMC), methylcellulase (Methocel), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), hyaluronic acid, and carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), etc.

ii. A Stable Chlorite/Peroxide Gel

[0017] The following Formula 2 is a presently preferred formulation of a chlorite/peroxide gel of the present invention:

[0018] FORMULA 2

Sodium Chlorite	0.02% - 0.10%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.005% - 0.05%
Methocel A	2.0%
Boric Acid	0.15%
Sodium Chloride	0.75%
Pluronic F-68/F-127 . .	0.1%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH 7.4
Purified water	Q.S. to volume

[0019] Any of the preparations of the present invention may be formulated for sustained release of the active components by forming liposomes of the preparing in accordance with well known liposomal forming techniques and/or by adding to the formulation a pharmaceutically acceptable and effective amount (e.g., typically 1-20 percent by weight) of a sustained release component such as a polymer matrix or one or more of the following:

a cellulose ester;
hydroxymethylpropyl cellulose;
methylhydroxyethyl cellulose;
hydroxypropyl cellulose;
hydroxyethyl cellulose;
carboxymethyl cellulose;
a salt of a cellulose ester;
cellulose acetate;
hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose phthalte;

methacrylic acid-methyl methacrylate copolymer;
methacrylic acid-ethyl acetate copolymer;
polyvinylpyrolidone;
polyvinyl alcohol;
hyaluronic acid;
a phospholipid;
cholesterol;
a phospholipid having a neutral charge;
a phospholipid having a negative charge;
dipalmytoyl phoshatidyl choline;
dipalmytoyl phoshatidyl serine; and,
sodium salts thereof.

iii. A Stable Chlorite/Peroxide Ophthalmic Solution

[0020] The following Formula 3 is a presently preferred formulation of a chlorite/peroxide contact lens disinfecting solution for use in cleaning contact lenses residing in or out of the eye. The formulation additionally functions as a tear product for lubrication in dry-eye subjects.

[0021] FORMULA 3

Sodium Chlorite	0.002% - 0.20%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.005% - 0.05%
Hyaluronic Acid	0.001% - 0.50%
Boric Acid	0.15%
Sodium Chloride	0.75%
Pluronic 127	0.05% - 2.0%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH to 7.4
Purified Water	Q.S. to Volume

B. Examples of Therapeutic Applications

[0022] The following are specific examples of therapeutic applications of the chlorite/peroxide preparations of the present invention.

i. Example 1: Treatment of Psoriasis-No Crossover

[0023] A human patient having psoriasis plaques present on both arms is treated as follows:

[0024] Twice daily application to plaques on the left arm only, of a chlorite/peroxide solution having the following formulation:

Sodium Chlorite	0.06%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.01%
HPMC	2.0%
Boric Acid	0.15%
HCl or NaOH	to adjust pH 7.4
Purified water	Q.S. to volume

[0025] Twice daily application to plaques on the right arm only of a commercially available 0.1% triamcinolone acetonide cream.

[0026] The chlorite/peroxide treated psoriatic plaques on the right arm began to become less severe within 24 hours of beginning treatment and had substantially disappeared within three days of beginning treatment. However, the triamcinolone acetonide treated psoriatic plaques present on the left arm remained unchanged and inflamed during the two week treatment period.

ii. Example 2: Treatment of Psoriasis-Crossover

[0027] A human patient having psoriasis plaques present on both arms is treated for two weeks, as follows:

[0028] Twice daily application to plaques on the left arm only, of a chlorite/peroxide solution having the following formulation:

Sodium Chlorite	0.06%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.01%
HPMC	2.0%
Boric Acid	0.15%
HCl or NaOH	to adjust pH 7.4
Purified water	Q.S. to volume/100%

[0029] Twice daily application to plaques on the right arm only of a commercially available 0.1% triamcinolone acetonide cream.

[0030] The chlorite/peroxide treated psoriatic plaques on the right arm began to become less severe within 24 hours of beginning treatment and had substantially disappeared within one week of beginning treatment. However, the triamcinolone acetonide treated psoriatic plaques present on the left arm remained unchanged and inflamed during the two week treatment period.

[0031] Beginning the day after the end of the initial two week treatment period, and continuing for a second two week treatment period, the patient was treated as follows:

[0032] Twice daily application to plaques on the *left* arm only of the same commercially available 0.1% triamcinolone acetonide cream described hereabove in this example.

[0033] Twice daily application to plaques on the *right* arm only, of the same chlorite/peroxide sustained release gel described hereabove in this example.

[0034] Within 24 hours of commencing the second treatment period, the psoriatic lesions on the right arm began to subside. By day three and continuing through the end of the second two week treatment period, the psoriatic lesions on the right arm had substantially disappeared.

iii. Example 3: Treatment of Cold Sores

[0035] A patient with painful, fluid-containing cold sores (i.e., chancre sores) on his lips was treated twice daily by application to the lips of a chlorite/peroxide preparation prepared in accordance with Formula 1 above.

[0036] Within 6 to 12 hours of the first application of the chlorite/peroxide preparation, the patient reported that the pain had subsided. Within 24 hours of the first application of the chlorite/peroxide preparation, the fluid contained within the cold sores had substantially dissipated and the cold sores appeared dry. Within six days of the first application of the chlorite/peroxide preparation the cold sores had substantially disappeared and the lips appeared normal, whereas cold sores of such severity typically require substantially longer than six days to completely disappear and heal.

iv. Example 4: Treatment of Venous Ulcer

[0037] A patient with a venous ulcer on the right leg of 3-4 cm diameter which had been present for 9-12 months was treated by twice daily application to the ulcer of gauze soaked with a chlorite/peroxide liquid solution prepared in accordance with Formula 1 above.

[0038] Within three days after commencement of treatment the ulcer appeared clean and dry. Within 14 days of the commencement of treatment the ulcer began to decrease in size and healthy new tissue was observed about its periphery. At 35 days after commencement of treatment, the ulcer had completely healed, without scarring, and the area where the ulcer had been located was free of pain.

v. Example 5: Treatment of Diabetic Decubitus Ulcer

[0039] A non-ambulatory, diabetic patient with decubitus ulcers on both legs and some toes, of 12-18 month duration, was treated by daily application of clean, sterile gauze to the ulcers and saturation of each gauze, three times each day, with a liquid chlorite/peroxide solution prepared in accordance with Formula 1 above. Within four to seven days of commencing the chlorite/hydrogen peroxide treatments the ulcers began to appear less inflamed, clean and dry. About seven to ten days after commencement of the chlorite/hydrogen peroxide treatment, granulation tissue began to form within the ulcers. Within 12 to 14 days, re-epithelialization was observed to have begun within the ulcerated areas except for one toe ulcer which had been particularly severe and had permeated to the bone of the toe. Within 30 to 45 days of the commencement of treatment, all of the ulcers except for the severe toe ulcer had completely closed and re-epithelialized, without irregular scar formation. Also, at 30 to 45 days after the commencement of treatment, the toe ulcer had also become substantially smaller (but was not completely closed) and the patient was able to walk. The liquid and or gel formulations of the present invention, such as Formulas 1 and 2 above, may also be applied topically to prevent scar formation due to wounds, burns, acne, infections, trauma, surgical incision, or any other scar-forming lesion or disorder.

vi. Example 6:

a. Treatment of Dry Eye Conditions

[0040] Subjects with dry eye conditions have itchy and scratchy eyes. In extreme cases, the subjects have more serious problems that can interfere with health maintenance. Subjects were treated with a preferred tear product of the following formulation:

Sodium Chlorite	0.005% - 0.02%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.01%
Methylcellulose A4M . .	0.075%
Hyaluronic Acid	0.10% - 0.125%
Boric Acid	0.15%

Sodium Chloride, USP	0.75%
Pluronic 127	0.10%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH to 7.4
Purified Water	Q.S. to Volume

[0041] Testing of dry eye subjects with rose bengal stain or fluorescein gives a good indication regarding the condition of the corneal epithelial health, while rose bengal staining provides a good indication of the number of dead epithelial cells on the cornea as well as conjunctiva.

[0042] Two subjects with dry eye condition were tested with rose bengal stain, and the quantitative staining to the cornea and conjunctiva was documented by photographs. The subjects started using the above preferred tear product at a dosage of two drops three times per day. At the end of two weeks, the two subjects were tested with rose bengal stain and the level of staining was quantitatively documented by photography. The results showed a 50% to 70% reduction in rose bengal staining, which clearly indicates that the preferred tear formulation was ameliorating the corneal and conjunctival cells from dying.

[0043] In addition to an objective determination of the health of the epithelial cells, the two subjects were tested subjectively regarding the safety and efficacy of the preferred tear product. First of all, slit-lamp biomicroscopy of the subjects during the two-week treatment period did not show any redness, irritation, inflammation, or other signs of discomfort. Second, the subjects indicated that the application of the tear product completely removed symptoms of redness, itching, scratching, pain, and dryness due to dry eye while providing lubrication that lasted for several hours. It is therefore evident that the tear product exhibits both safety and efficacy in the treatment of dry eye. As is further recognized in view of the foregoing antimicrobial activity of such compositions, the tear product will also have efficacy in enhancing wound healing within the eye such as after surgery where bacterial infections are to be avoided.

b. Treatment of Allergic Conjunctivitis

[0044] In addition to treating dry eye condition with the above preferred tear product, the product was also tested in the treatment of conditions from allergic conjunctivitis. In particular, two subjects suffering from allergic conjunctivitis including itchy, scratchy eyes with constant tearing applied two drops of the product three times per day. This dosage resulted in the disappearance of the symptoms.

c. Examples of Contact Leans Cleansing

i. Example 1: Soaking, Cleaning and Disinfecting

[0045] The following formulation is a preferred disinfecting solution applicable to the cleaning of contact lenses by conventional soaking.

Sodium Chlorite	0.05%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.01%
Methylcellulose A4M . .	0.075%
Hyaluronic Acid	0.05% - 0.10%
Boric Acid	0.15%
Pluronic 127	0.25% - 0.50%
Sodium Chloride USP . .	0.75%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH to 7.4
Purified Water	Q.S. to Volume

[0046] Six subjects using soft hydrophilic contact lenses soaked the lenses in the above disinfecting solution and then placed the lenses directly into the eyes. Soaking was performed nightly or on an as-needed basis. All six subjects reported that the lenses felt very comfortable, and that no adverse effects (e.g., burning, stinging, redness, pain) were experienced. Additionally, the solution extended the comfort and clean condition of the lenses for several weeks beyond such extension experienced with other commercially available disinfecting solutions.

[0047] The disinfecting solution can be used with soft hydrophilic lenses of varying water content (e.g., 38% to 75%), as well as with silicone acrylate rigid gas permeable lenses. Cycling studies of soft lenses soaked daily in the solution for 30 days showed no damage or change in the physical and chemical characteristics of the lenses. Eye comfort, as earlier noted, is achieved through non-binding

and non-accumulating of preservative in soft or rigid gas permeable lenses, while such binding and accumulation can be found in certain currently commercially available formulations to cause irritation and discomfort.

ii. Example 2: Cleaning While Wearing

[0048] The following formulation is a preferred disinfecting in-eye solution applicable to the cleaning of contact lenses while they are being worn by introducing the solution into the eye:

Sodium Chlorite	0.02%
Hydrogen Peroxide . . .	0.01%
Methylcellulose A4M . .	0.075%
Hyaluronic Acid	0.075% - 0.10%
Boric Acid	0.15%
Sodium Chloride USP . .	0.75%
Pluronic 127	0.75%
HCl or NaOH	Adjust pH to 7.4
Purified Water	Q.S. to Volume

[0049] Four subjects applied two drops of the above in-eye solution three times per day for 30 days to contact lenses while being worn. Examinations of all of the subjects showed no irritation, burning, stinging, or adverse effects of any kind. These subjects further reported that the solution felt soothing and lubricating.

[0050] Two subjects were involved in a comparative study where, first of all, they wore ACUVUE disposable lenses continuously for two weeks with occasional removal and cleaning with commercially available cleaning solutions followed with a saline rinse. After 14 days, the lenses became very gritty and uncomfortable, and were discarded. Second, the two subjects started with new ACUVUE lenses and practiced daily application of the present in-eye solution three times per day without removing or touching the lenses. These subjects were able to wear the lenses for three to four weeks before replacement. Additionally, the inconvenience of cleaning the lenses outside the eye was completely eliminated, as was the risk of lens loss, tearing, or contamination. It is therefore evident that the present in-eye cleaning solution provides cleansing efficacy as well as convenience.

d. In-Vitro and In-Vivo Antimicrobial Efficacy

i. Synergistic Activity

Tables I and II compare the antimicrobial effects of (a) 400 ppm sodium chlorite alone; (b) 200 ppm hydrogen peroxide alone; and (c) 400 ppm sodium chlorite and 200 ppm hydrogen peroxide in combination against antibiotic-resistant strains of *staphylococcus haemolyticus* (Table I) and *pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Table II) both isolated from human infected eyes. Tables I and II summarize the antimicrobial effects observed at time points one and two hours after introduction of the test solutions.

TABLE I

(*staphylococcus haemolyticus*:
Initial inoculum = 1.01×10^7:Log 7.03)

Time (hours)	Log Reduction $NaClO_2$ alone (400 ppm)	Log Reduction H_2O_2 alone (200 ppm)	$NaClO_2$ & H_2O_2 (400 ppm & 200 ppm)
1	0.11	0.20	0.69
2	1.01	0.23	2.43

TABLE II

(*pseudomonas aeruginosa*:
Initial inoculum = 2.22×10^6:Log 6.35)

Time (hours)	Log Reduction $NaClO_2$ alone (400 ppm)	Log Reduction H_2O_2 alone (200 ppm)	$NaClO_2$ & H_2O_2 (400 ppm & 200 ppm)
1	0.351	0.01	0.04
2	1.35	0.54	6.35

[0051] In the experiment summarized in Table I, sodium chlorite alone caused a Log reduction in *staphylococcus*

haemolyticus bacteria of 0.11 at 1 hour and 1.01 at 2 hours. Hydrogen peroxide alone caused a Log reduction in *staphylococcus haemolyticus* bacteria of 0.20 at 1 hour and 0.23 at 2 hours and the combination of sodium chlorite and hydrogen peroxide caused a Log reduction in *staphylococcus haemolyticus* bacteria of 0.69 at 1 hour and 2.43 at 2 hours. Thus, in this experiment, the antimicrobial effect of the sodium chlorite-hydrogen peroxide combination was significantly greater than the sums of the effects of the sodium chlorite and hydrogen peroxide alone, at least at the 2 hour time point. Accordingly, it is concluded that the sodium chlorite-hydrogen peroxide combination exhibited a supra-additive effect against the strain of *staphylococcus haemolyticus* used in this experiment.

[0052] In the experiment summarized in Table II, sodium chlorite along caused a Log reduction in *pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria of 0.35 at 1 hour and 1.35 at 2 hours. Hydrogen peroxide alone caused a Log reduction in *pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria of 0.01 at 1 hour and 0.54 at 2 hours and the combination of sodium chlorite and hydrogen peroxide caused a Log reduction in *pseudomonas aeruginosa* bacteria 0.04 at 1 hour and 6.35 at 2 hours. Thus, in this experiment, the antimicrobial effect of the sodium chlorite-hydrogen peroxide combination was significantly greater than the sums of the effects of the sodium chlorite and hydrogen peroxide alone, at least in the 2 hour time point. Accordingly, it is concluded that the sodium chlorite-hydrogen peroxide combination exhibited a supra-additive effect against the strain of *pseudomonas aeruginosa* used in this experiment.

ii. Animal Testing

[0053] *S. haemolyticus* keratitus was induced in respective right eyes of 12 rabbits by dropping broth containing 50,000 CFU/ml of *S. haemolyticus* onto abraded corneas of these eyes. After 24 hours, all corneas were likewise infected, and the rabbits were divided randomly into three groups. The rabbits (five) of Group I then were treated with the chlorite-hydrogen peroxide formulation

defined above as cleaning while wearing contact lenses (here termed "Bactericide"); the rabbits (five) of Group II were treated with commercially available 0.3% ofloxacin antibiotic ophthalmic solution; and the rabbits (two) of Group III were untreated to serve as a control.

[0054] At 24 and 48 hours post infection, the rabbits underwent visual eye examination, photographic documentation and biomicroscopy. After 24 hours of treatment, three animals each from Groups I and II and one animal from Group III were sacrificed. The eyes were enucleated and an 8 mm disc of cornea was homogenized and plated onto growth media for microbial isolation and quantification. After 48 hours of treatment, the same procedure was followed for the remaining animals.

[0055] Tables III, IV and V summarize the results of this experimentation. As is there apparent, the Bactericide of the present invention exhibited superior overall results as compared to the competing commercially available regimens. The results therefore confirm that the clinical efficacy of the Bactericide is better than the antibiotic treatment. In addition to having excellent bactericidal properties, it is demonstrated that bactericide superiority is probably attributable to inactivation of bacterial proteolytic enzymes (thus decreasing bacterial virulence) and inactivation of bacterial toxins responsible for inflammation and hyperemia.

TABLE III

IN-VIVO ANTIMICROBIAL EFFICACY IN INFECTIOUS *S. HAEMOLYTICUS* KERATITIS IN RABBITS

Post Treatment Time	Group I Bactericide	Group II 0.3% Ofloxacin	Group III Untreated Control
24 hours	i) 0 CFU ii) 18,000 CFU iii) 0 CFU	i) 23,000 CFU ii) 5,000 CFU iii) 11,000 CFU	39,000 CFU
Average	6,000 CFU	13,000 CFU	39,000 CFU
48 hours	i) 0 CFU ii) 0 CFU	i) 5,000 CFU ii) 5,200 CFU	231,000 CFU
Average	0 CFU	5,100 CFU	231,000 CFU

TABLE IV

IN-VIVO CLINICAL EFFICACY IN INFECTIOUS *S. HAEMOLYTICUS* KERATITIS IN RABBITS

Time	Group I Bactericide	Group II 0.3% Ofloxacin	Group III Untreated Control
24 hours after infection	inflammation (+2) hyperemia (+2) corneal edema (+2)	inflammation(+2) hyperemia (+2) corneal edema (+2)	inflammation(+2) hyperemia (+2) corneal edema (+2)
24 hours after treatment	inflammation (0) hyperemia (0) corneal edema (0)	inflammation(+2) hyperemia (+2) corneal edema (+2)	inflammation(+3) hyperemia (+3) corneal edema (+3)
48 hours after treatment	inflammation (0) hyperemia (0) corneal edema (0)	inflammation(+1) hyperemia (+1) corneal edema (+1)	inflammation(+3) hyperemia (+3) corneal edema (+3)

TABLE IV

IN-VITRO INHIBITION OF PROTEOLYTIC ENZYME ACTIVITY

Inhibition of proteolytic enzyme activity of Trypsin and porcine pancreatic Elastase		
Enzyme	Concentration of Bactericide	% Inhibition of Enzyme activity
Elastase (porcine)	0.18 ppm	46%
Trypsin	0.12 ppm	28%

[0056] It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art, that the invention has been described hereabove with reference to certain examples and specific embodiments. However, these are not the only examples and embodiments in which the invention may be practiced. Indeed, various modifications may be made to the above-described examples and embodiments without departing from the intended spirit and scope of the present invention, and it is intended that all such modifications be included within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition for direct application onto an eye of a living being, the composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

2. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the chlorite compound is a metal chlorite.

3. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the metal of the chlorite compound is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.

4. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the peroxy compound is hydrogen peroxide.

5. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 1 additionally comprising a lubricant chosen from the group consisting of non-ionic polymeric lubricants, anionic polymeric lubricants, and combinations thereof.

6. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 5 additionally comprising a block polymer based surfactant.

7. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 6 comprising:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

8. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 7 additionally comprising from about 0.001 wt. % to about 0.50 wt. % hyaluronic acid.

9. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition for direct application onto a contact lens in place on an eye of a living being for cleansing said contact lens, the composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

10. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the chlorite compound is a metal chlorite.

11. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the metal of the chlorite compound is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.

12. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the peroxy compound is hydrogen peroxide.

13. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 9 additionally comprising a lubricant chosen from the group consisting of non-ionic polymeric lubricants, anionic polymeric lubricants, and combinations thereof.

14. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 13 additionally comprising a block polymer based surfactant.

15. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 13 comprising:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

16. An anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition as claimed in Claim 15 additionally comprising from about 0.001 wt. % to about 0.50 wt. % hyaluronic acid.

17. A method for treating an infection of an eye of a living being, the method comprising applying an anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition onto the eye, said composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the chlorite compound of the ophthalmic composition is a metal chlorite.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 18 wherein the metal of the chlorite compound of the ophthalmic composition is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.

20. A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the peroxy compound of the ophthalmic composition is hydrogen peroxide.

21. A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises a lubricant chosen from the group consisting of non-ionic polymeric lubricants, anionic polymeric lubricants, and combinations thereof.

22. A method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises a block polymer based surfactant.

23. A method as claimed in Claim 22 wherein the ophthalmic composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

24. A method as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises from about 0.001 wt. % to about 0.50 wt. % hyaluronic acid.

25. A method for cleansing a contact lens in place on an eye of a living being, the method comprising applying an anti-microbial liquid ophthalmic composition onto the lens, said composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

26. A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the chlorite compound of the ophthalmic composition is a metal chlorite.

27. A method as claimed in Claim 26 wherein the metal of the chlorite compound of the ophthalmic composition is chosen from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.

28. A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the peroxy compound of the ophthalmic composition is hydrogen peroxide.

29. A method as claimed in Claim 25 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises a lubricant chosen from the group consisting of non-ionic polymeric lubricants, anionic polymeric lubricants, and combinations thereof.

30. A method as claimed in Claim 29 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises a block polymer based surfactant.

31. A method as claimed in Claim 30 wherein the ophthalmic composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

32. A method as claimed in Claim 31 wherein the ophthalmic composition additionally comprises from about 0.001 wt. % to about 0.50 wt. % hyaluronic acid.

33. A method for providing antibacterial activity against gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria at an affected site, the method comprising applying an effective amount to the affected site of an antimicrobial composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

34. A method as claimed in Claim 33 wherein the composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

35. A method for providing a broad spectrum synergistic antibacterial activity at an affected site, the method comprising applying an effective amount to the affected site of an antimicrobial composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

36. A method as claimed in Claim 35 wherein the composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;

purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

37. A method for providing simultaneous anti-bacterial, anti-proteolytic, anti-endotoxin, and anti-exotoxin activity at an affected site, the method comprising applying an effective amount to the affected site of an antimicrobial composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

38. A method as claimed in Claim 37 wherein the composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

39. A method for controlling inflamation, hyperemia, and corneal edema as a result of bacterial keratitis at an affected site, the method comprising applying an effective amount to the affected site of an antimicrobial composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

40. A method as claimed in Claim 39 wherein the composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.

41. A method for providing antibacterial activity against bacteria at an affected site without detriment to surrounding non-bacteria bearing tissue, the method comprising applying an effective amount to and about the affected site of an antimicrobial composition comprising from about 0.02 wt. % to about 0.20 wt. % chlorite compound and from about 0.005 wt. % to about 0.01 wt. % peroxy compound, said composition at a pH between about 7.0 and 7.8.

42. A method as claimed in Claim 41 wherein the composition comprises:

sodium chlorite .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.10 wt. %;
hydrogen peroxide .... 0.005 wt. % to 0.01 wt. %;
lubricant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
boric acid .... 0.15 wt. %;
sodium chloride .... 0.75 wt. %;
surfactant .... 0.05 wt. % to 0.2 wt. %;
HCl or NaOH .... to adjust pH;
purified water .... Q.S. to volume.