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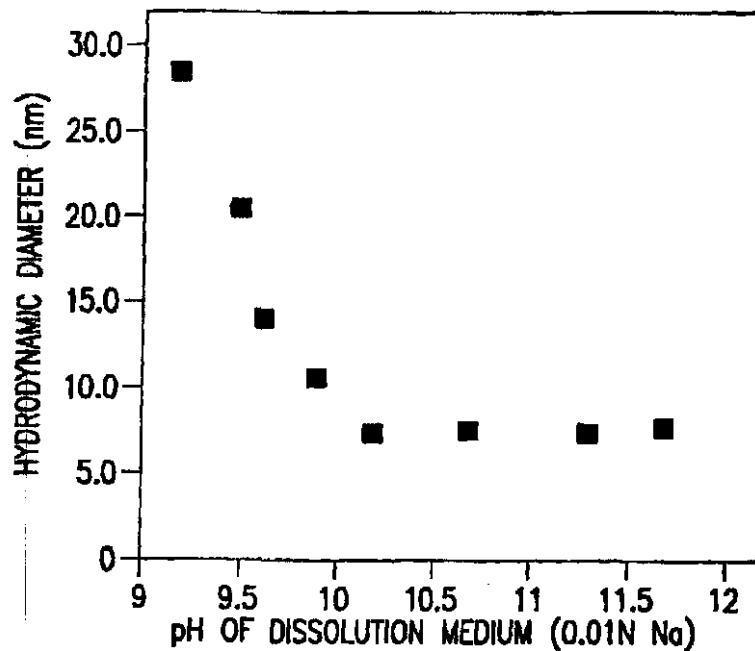
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(54) Title: MICELLES

WO 01/60382 A1



(57) Abstract: The present invention provides micelles, solutions comprising micelles, methods for preparing micelles, and methods for delivering micelles to patients. The micelles have fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameters and are formed from basic or acidic amphiphilic compounds.

WO 01/60382 A1



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WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

MICELLES

Related Application

This application claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/183,768 filed
5 February 18, 2000.

Field of the Invention

The present invention provides micelles, solutions comprising micelles, methods for preparing micelles, and methods for delivering micelles to patients. The micelles have fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameters and are formed from basic or acidic amphiphilic 10 compounds.

Background of the Invention

Amphiphilic compounds are compounds with hydrophilic (water-loving) and hydrophobic (water-fearing) regions. When dispersed in water at a concentration above their critical micelle concentration or "CMC," amphiphilic compounds spontaneously self- 15 associate into micelles. Micelles have a size which depends on properties of the solvent in which they are dispersed. The size of micelles can vary from approximately two to several hundreds of nanometers in equivalent spherical diameter.

When a drug is an amphiphilic compound which forms micelles when formulated for intravenous administration, the pharmacokinetics of the drug can depend upon the size 20 of the micelle formed. Pharmacokinetics describes the time course of the distribution of a drug within the body after administration. The pharmacokinetics of a drug can affect its efficacy, metabolism, distribution, and/or toxicity in the body, either positively or negatively. For other routes of administration, micelle size can also influence pharmacokinetics. When the drug is in the form of a micelle, the effectiveness of delivery 25 of the drug to the site of action depends upon the size of the aggregate, as the micelle size might affect diffusion, transport across cell membranes, and interactions with enzymes, transport proteins and lipids.

Prior to the work of the present inventors, the micelle size of amphiphilic drug compounds in water was known to be governed by the state of the solution, so once the 30 formulation of the drug was chosen, a predetermined micelle size distribution was expected to result. The ability to control the micelle size of a drug delivered in a pharmaceutical formulation was severely limited, and control of the rate of delivery of drug to the site of action, therefore, was limited due to the inability to control the size of the micelle in solutions.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

There is a need in the art to control or fix the size of micelles formed by amphiphilic drug compounds in aqueous solutions so that drug delivery rates and pharmacokinetics can be controlled. The present invention is directed to these, as well as other, important ends.

5

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides methods for preparing micelles comprising providing an amount of least one acidic amphiphilic compound, wherein the acidic amphiphilic compound comprises at least one ionizable group; adding the acidic amphiphilic compound to a first aqueous alkaline solution; wherein the first aqueous 10 alkaline solution comprises at least one basic metal salt and at least one neutral metal salt; wherein the first aqueous alkaline solution has a predetermined metal ion concentration; wherein the concentration of acidic amphiphilic compound in the first aqueous solution is higher than the critical micelle concentration of the acidic amphiphilic compound; and wherein the pH and the metal ion concentration of the first aqueous alkaline solution are 15 effective to form micelles with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter; thereby forming a second aqueous solution comprising micelles of the acidic amphiphilic compound with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter. The methods may further comprise adding the second aqueous alkaline solution to a third aqueous solution, wherein the third aqueous solution comprises a buffer system or at least one strong acid; thereby forming a fourth 20 aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the second aqueous alkaline solution, wherein the micelles in the fourth aqueous solution have a fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter that is substantially the same as the fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the second aqueous alkaline solution.

The present invention also provides methods for preparing micelles comprising 25 providing an amount of least one basic amphiphilic compound that comprises at least one ionizable group; adding the basic amphiphilic compound to a first aqueous acidic solution; wherein the first aqueous solution comprises at least one protic acidic and at least one neutral metal salt; wherein the first aqueous solution has a predetermined metal ion concentration; wherein the concentration of basic amphiphilic compound in the first 30 aqueous solution is higher than the critical micelle concentration of the basic amphiphilic compound; wherein the acidic pH and the metal ion concentration of the first aqueous solution are effective to form micelles with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter; thereby forming a second aqueous solution comprising micelles of the acidic amphiphilic

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

compound with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter. The methods may further comprise adding the second aqueous solution to a third aqueous solution, wherein the third aqueous solution comprises a buffer system or at least one strong base; thereby forming a fourth aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the second aqueous acidic solution, wherein the micelles in the fourth aqueous solution have a fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter that is substantially the same as the fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the second aqueous acidic solution.

5 The present invention also provides novel micelles, novel aqueous solutions comprising micelles, and novel methods of delivering micelles and/or aqueous solutions 10 comprising micelles to patients.

These and other aspects of the present invention are described in detail below.

Brief Description of the Figures

Figure 1 is a graph showing the relationship between $V_{max} / k T$ and salt concentration.

15 Figure 2 is a graph showing the increase in micelle hydrodynamic diameter (as measured by an increase in light scattering intensity, R90) with added NaCl.

Figure 3 is a graph showing the micelle hydrodynamic diameter for E5564 in alkaline solutions at constant sodium concentrations via the addition of NaCl.

20 Figure 4 is a graph showing the relationship between the micelle hydrodynamic diameter for E5564 in a phosphate buffer solution at pH 7.6 after dissolution in NaOH solutions of varying pH and constant sodium concentration (0.01 N Na).

Detailed Description of the Invention

Amphiphilic compounds, as used herein, refer to compounds with hydrophilic and hydrophobic moieties, which form micelles when dispersed in aqueous solutions. The 25 amphiphilic compounds of the invention preferably comprise at least one ionizable group.

Critical micelle concentration ("CMC"), as used herein, is the concentration of amphiphilic compound at which micelles begin to spontaneously form in an aqueous solution. A "low" critical micelle concentration is preferably less than 10^{-6} g/ml.

30 Micelle, as used herein, refers to any water soluble aggregate which is spontaneously and reversibly formed from amphiphilic compounds or ions.

Hydrodynamic diameter of a micelle indicates that the micelle has the same hydrodynamic properties (e.g., diffusion coefficient) as a sphere of the same diameter. For example, a micelle having a width of 5 nm and a length of 9 nm might have a

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

hydrodynamic diameter of 7 nm.

The present inventors have discovered a method for preparing micelles with fixed (i.e., stable), preselected hydrodynamic diameters where the hydrodynamic diameter of micelles formed at an acidic or basic pH remains substantially the same at the acidic or 5 basic pH; and the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles remains substantially the same after adjustment of the acidic or basic pH to a second more neutral pH value (i.e., a neutral relative to the acidic or basic pH), where it would normally be expected that the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles would increase. This discovery provides methods to produce pharmaceutical formulations of micelles with fixed, presselected hydrodynamic 10 diameters. Using the methods of the invention, micelles having optimal hydrodynamic diameters can be used to design drug formulations that yield optimally desired pharmacokinetic and drug delivery properties.

The methods described herein are applicable to all acidic or basic amphiphilic compounds for which the critical micelle concentration is low. Preferably the acidic or 15 basic amphiphilic compounds comprise at least one ionizable group. For formulations where the critical concentration is low, the salt concentration of the drug formulation must be kept sufficiently low to provide the required stability of the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles. Thus, the stability of the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles formed from such a process is governed by the critical micelle concentration and the pair 20 inter-particle potential energy

The micelles can grow in hydrodynamic diameter via a monomer mediated process similar to crystal ripening. The rate of hydrodynamic diameter increase is proportional to the monomer concentration (i.e., critical micelle concentration). For systems with a low 25 critical micelle concentration, the rate of micelle hydrodynamic diameter increase via this mechanism can be sufficiently slow to allow the micelles to be stable for the amount of time required to be useful as pharmaceutical products.

Micelles can also grow in hydrodynamic diameter via an aggregation and fusion mechanism which is governed by particle interaction potential energy. The tendency for aggregation can be expressed as a stability ratio W. The stability of the micelles increases 30 with W. W is inversely related to the salt concentration of the solution and directly related to the electrostatic charge of the micelle. Therefore, as the salt concentration in solution is lowered and/or the electrostatic charge of the micelle is increased, the stability of the micelles is increased relative to growth from an aggregation-fusion mechanism. Figure 1

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

shows how, at salt concentrations greater than 0.6 M, the maximum interaction potential energy (V_{max}) between micelles is zero and the aggregation rate is only diffusion limited. As the salt concentration is decreased, however, $V_{max} / k T$ increases and the aggregation rate decreases accordingly. Therefore, salt concentration can be adjusted to impart the 5 necessary stability to the system.

To attain the desired micelle hydrodynamic diameter using an acidic amphiphilic compound, the acidic amphiphilic compound is dissolved in an aqueous alkaline solution at a predetermined pH value and a constant metal ion concentration. The pH must be higher than the pKa of the at least one ionizable group of the acidic amphiphilic 10 compound. The aqueous alkaline solution is prepared by adding at least one basic metal salt, at least one neutral metal salt, and a predetermined metal ion concentration to an aqueous solution. Preferably the basic metal salt and the neutral metal salt have the same metal ion. Typical metal ions include, without limitation, Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Al^{3+} , Mn^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Cu^+ , Ni^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Na^+ , Li^+ , K^+ and the like. Preferred metal 15 ions include Na^+ , K^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{2+} , Ba^+ , Mg^{2+} , and Al^{3+} . Typical basic metal salts useful in the present invention are, for example, the oxide and hydroxide salts of the aforementioned metal ions. Typical neutral metal salts useful in the present invention include, for example, halide salts (e.g., chloride, fluoride, bromide, iodide) of the aforementioned metal ions. Adding the acidic amphiphilic compound to the aqueous 20 alkaline solution results in micelles with a fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter. "Fixed" means that the hydrodynamic diameter is stable (i.e., does not substantially change), and "preselected" means that hydrodynamic diameter was chosen for its optimal or desired pharmacokinetic and/or other properties.

To attain the desired micelle hydrodynamic diameter using a basic amphiphilic 25 compound, the basic amphiphilic compound is dissolved in an aqueous acid solution at a predetermined pH value and a constant metal ion concentration. The pH value must be lower than the pKa of the at least one ionizable group of the basic amphiphilic compound. The aqueous acidic solution is prepared by adding at least one protic acid, at least one neutral metal salt, and a predetermined metal ion concentration to an aqueous solution. 30 Preferably the protic acid and the neutral metal salt have the same metal ion. Typical metal ions include, without limitation, Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Al^{3+} , Mn^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Cu^+ , Ni^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Na^+ , Li^+ , K^+ and the like. Preferred metal ions include Na^+ , K^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{2+} , Ba^+ , Mg^{2+} , and Al^{3+} . Typical protic acid useful in the present invention are, for

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

example, hydrochloric acids, phosphoric acids, sulfuric acids, acetic acids, citric acids, carbonic acids and the like. Typical neutral metal salts useful in the present invention include, for example, halide salts (e.g., chloride, fluoride, bromide, iodide) of the aforementioned metal ions. Adding the basic amphiphilic compound to the aqueous acid solution results in micelles with a fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter.

- 5 The concentration of the amphiphilic compound in the aqueous alkaline or acidic solution will be higher than the critical micelle concentration of the amphiphilic compound. The conditions which yield micelles of a preselected hydrodynamic diameter can be determined by preparing micelles in a matrix of pH values and salt concentrations.
- 10 15 Different micelle hydrodynamic diameters result from the preparation of micelles in solutions with different pH values and salt concentrations. Thereafter, a solution comprising micelles with a fixed, preselected hydrodynamic diameter can be prepared based on the selected concentration of the acidic or basic amphiphilic compound, the pH, and the concentration of metal ions.
- 15 In addition to the above, the inventors have unexpectedly discovered that the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous acidic or alkaline solution will remain substantially the same when the pH of the aqueous acidic or alkaline solution is neutralized (i.e., wherein ionizable groups in the amphiphilic compound are neutralized relative to the charged ionizable groups in the amphiphilic compound).
- 20 25 In particular, an aqueous solution comprising a buffer system and/or at least one strong acid is added to the aqueous alkaline solution comprising the micelles of the acidic amphiphilic compound in an amount sufficient to produce an aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the aqueous alkaline solution. The hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous solution having the relatively neutral pH will remain substantially the same as the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous alkaline solution.

30 In another embodiment, an aqueous solution comprising a buffer system and/or at least one strong base is added to the aqueous acid solution comprising the micelles of the basic amphiphilic compound in an amount sufficient to produce an aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the aqueous acidic solution. The hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous solution having the relatively neutral pH will remain substantially the same as the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous acid solution.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

In the present invention, the terms "basic" or "alkaline" pH and "neutral" pH are relative terms. For example, when the first aqueous solution has a basic or alkaline pH, and the final aqueous solution has a neutral pH, the neutral pH is neutral relative to the pH of the basic or alkaline solution. In other words, the pH of the neutral solution is lower than the pH of the alkaline solution. More preferably, when the first aqueous solution has a basic or alkaline pH, the pH is from about 9 to about 13, more preferably from about 10 to about 12. Relative to the first alkaline solution, the neutral pH is preferably from about 4 to less than 9, more preferably from about 6 to less than 9, even more preferably from about 7 to less than 9, still more preferably from about 7 to about 8, most preferably about 10 7.4 to about 7.6.

Similarly, the terms "acidic" pH and "neutral" pH are relative terms. For example, when the first aqueous solution has an acidic pH, and the final aqueous solution has a neutral pH, the neutral pH is neutral relative to the pH of the acidic solution. In other words, the pH of the neutral solution is higher than the pH of the acidic solution. More 15 preferably, when the first aqueous solution has an acidic pH, the pH is from about 1 to about 6, more preferably from about 3 to about 5. Relative to the first acidic solution, the neutral pH is preferably more than 6 to about 13, more preferably from about 7 to about 9, still more preferably from about 7 to about 8, most preferably about 7.4 to about 7.6.

When the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous solution having 20 the relatively neutral pH remains "substantially the same" as the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the aqueous alkaline or acidic solution, "substantially the same" means that the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the relatively neutral solution does not change by more than 4 nm, more preferably does not change by more than 2 nm, still more preferably does not change by more than 1 nm, even more preferably does not change by 25 more than 0.5 nm, and most preferably does not change at all from the hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the alkaline or acidic solution.

The buffer system may be any known in the art including, for example, phosphate buffers, acetate buffers, citrate buffers, maleate buffers, carbonate buffers, bicarbonate buffers, tartrate buffers, tromethamine buffers, triethanolamine buffers, meglumine buffers 30 and the like. The strong acid can be any known in the art including, for example, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid and the like. The strong base can be any known in the art including, for example, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide and the like.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

The hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles of the present invention can be from about 1 nm to about 100 nm, preferably from about 5 nm to about 50 nm, more preferably from about 6 nm to about 20 nm, even more preferably from about 7 nm to about 15 nm, and most preferably from about 7 nm to about 9 nm.

5 The hydrodynamic diameter of micelles of the present invention preferably refers to a range of hydrodynamic diameters of about 5 nm, preferably about 4 nm, more preferably about 3 nm, most preferably about 2 nm or about 1 nm. For example, with respect to a hydrodynamic diameter range of about 2 nm, the hydrodynamic diameter can be from about 7 nm to about 9 nm. Alternatively, the hydrodynamic diameter can be from 10 about 2 nm to about 4 nm; or from about 3 nm to about 5 nm; or from about 4 nm to about 6 nm; or from about 5 nm to about 7 nm; or from about 6 nm to about 8 nm; or from about 8 nm to about 10 nm; or from about 9 nm to about 11 nm; or from about 10 nm to about 12 nm; or from about 11 nm to about 13 nm; or from about 12 nm to about 14 nm; or from about 13 nm to about 15 nm; or from about 14 nm to about 16 nm; or from about 15 nm to 15 about 17 nm; or from about 16 nm to about 18 nm; or from about 17 nm to about 19 nm; or from about 18 nm to about 20 nm; or from about 19 nm to about 21 nm; or from about 20 nm to about 22 nm; or from about 21 nm to about 23 nm; or from about 22 nm to about 24 nm; or from about 23 nm to about 25 nm; or from about 24 nm to about 26 nm. In other words, the 2 nm range (or the 5 nm range or the 4 nm range or the 3 nm range or the 1 nm range) can be anywhere in the range of from about 1 nm to about 100 nm; preferably from about 5 nm to about 50 nm, more preferably from about 6 nm to about 20 nm, even more preferably from about 7 nm to about 15 nm, and most preferably from about 7 nm to about 9 nm.

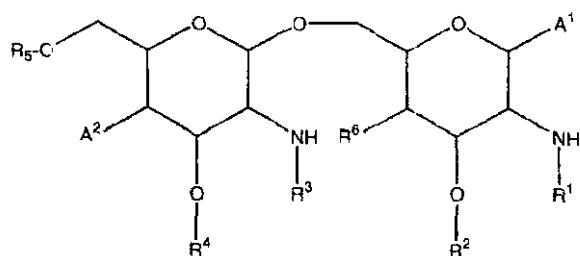
25 The hydrodynamic diameter of micelles also means that substantially all the micelles have about the same hydrodynamic diameter (i.e., or range of hydrodynamic diameters as described above). "Substantially all the micelles have about the same hydrodynamic diameter" generally means that more than 50% of the micelles have a hydrodynamic diameter that falls within the range as described above; preferably more than 60%, 70% or 80% of the micelles have a hydrodynamic diameter that falls within the 30 range as described above; even more preferably about 90%, about 95%, or about 99% of the micelles have a hydrodynamic diameter that falls within the range as described above; most preferably 100% of the micelles have a hydrodynamic diameter that falls within the range as described above.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

Acidic or basic amphiphilic compounds for use in the present invention include any acidic or basic amphiphilic compound known in the art. Preferably the acidic or basic amphiphilic compound comprises at least one ionizable group. The at least one ionizable group of the acidic amphiphilic compound can be, for example, phosphoric acids, 5 carboxylic acids, sulfuric acids, sulfonic acids, sulfinic acids, thiols, alcohols, enols and the like. The at least one ionizable group of the basic amphiphilic compound can be, for example, amines, phosphines, and the like.

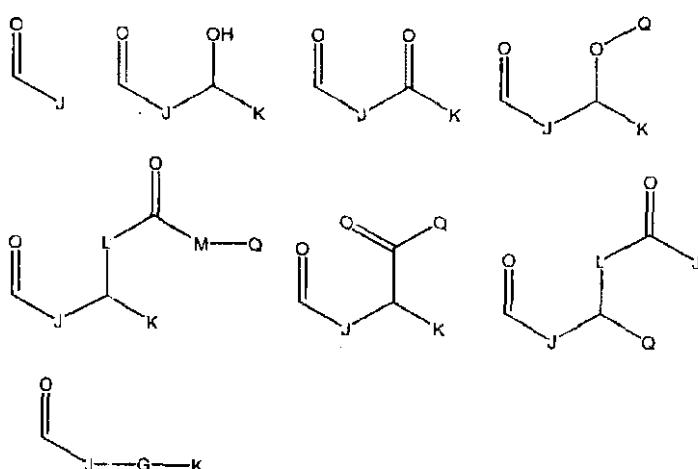
Exemplary acidic or basic amphiphilic compounds comprising at least one ionizable group include the compounds described in WO 96/39411 and U.S. Patent Nos. 10 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. These compounds are generally represented by Formula (A), pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and/or stereoisomers (including enantiomers and/or diastereomers) thereof:



15

(A)

wherein R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:



J, K and Q are each independently a straight or branched C₁₋₁₅ alkyl;

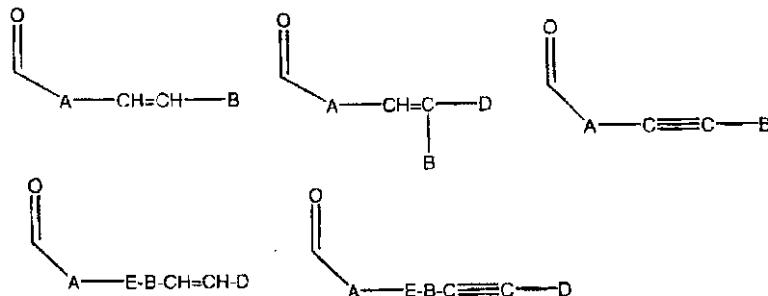
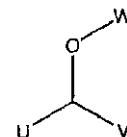
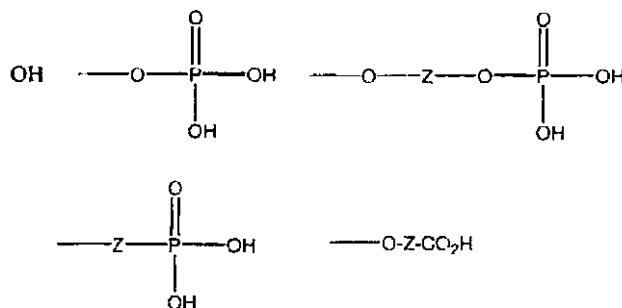
L is O, N or C;

20 M is O or N;

G is N, O, S, SO or SO₂;

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

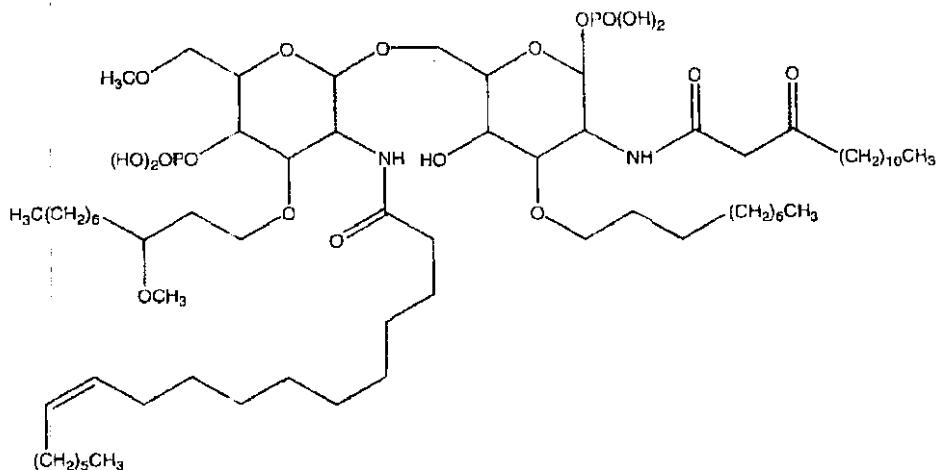
 R^2 is a straight or branched C_{5-15} alkyl; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: E is N, O, S, SO or SO_2 ;5 A , B and D are each independently a straight or branched C_{1-15} alkyl group; R^4 is a straight or branched C_{4-20} alkyl group orU and V are each independently a straight or branched C_{2-15} alkyl group;W is a hydrogen or a straight or branched C_{1-5} alkyl group;10 R^5 is hydrogen, $-J'$, $-J'-OH$, $-J'-O-K'$, $-J'-O-K'-OH$ or $J'-O-PO(OH)_2$; J' and K' are each independently a straight or branched C_{1-5} alkyl group; R^6 is hydroxy, halogen, a C_{1-5} alkoxy group or a C_{1-5} acyloxy group;A¹ and A² are each independently selected from the group consisting of:15 Z is a straight or branched C_{1-10} alkyl group.

The term "alkyl" refers to aliphatic organic groups which may be branched or straight and which may optionally be substituted with one or more halogen atoms at any position along the alkyl chain. The term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" includes salts of compounds derived from the combination of the compound and an organic or inorganic acid or base. Exemplary pharmaceutically acceptable salts include lysine salts, tris salts, ammonium salts, sodium salts and the like.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

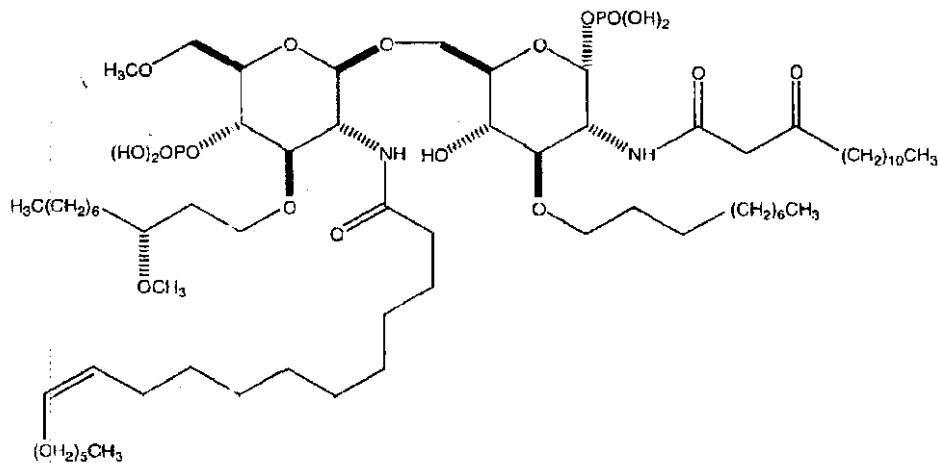
A preferred compound of Formula (A) is Compound (1), pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and/or stereoisomers (including enantiomers and/or diastereomers) thereof:



5

(1)

In a preferred embodiment, Compound (1) is Compound (1A) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is represented by the following formula:



10

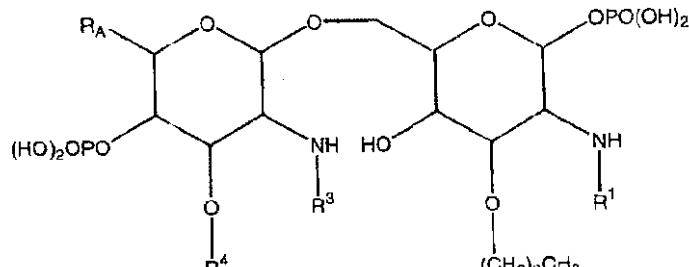
(1A)

When Compound 1A is a sodium salt (i.e., both hydrogen atoms in both -OPO(OH)₂ groups are replaced with sodium), then the compound is E5564.

Other preferred compounds described in WO 96/39411 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366 for use in the present invention include those of Formula (B), pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, and/or stereoisomers (including enantiomers and/or diastereomers) thereof:

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297



(B)

wherein R¹, R³ and R⁴ are as defined below:

#	R ¹	R ³	R ⁴
1	COCH ₂ CO(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
2	COCH ₂ CO(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
3	COCH ₂ CO(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₁₆ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
4	COCH ₂ CHOH(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
5	COCH ₂ CO(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₉ CH ₃
6	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
7	CO(CH ₂) ₁₂ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
8	COCH ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
9	COCH ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
10	COCH ₂ CH(OH)(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃
11	COCH ₂ CO(CH ₂) ₁₀ CH ₃	CO(CH ₂) ₉ CH=CH(CH ₂) ₅ CH ₃	(CH ₂) ₂ CH(OCH ₃)(CH ₂) ₆ CH ₃

5 wherein R_A in Compounds (1)-(10) is CH₂OCH₃ and R_A in Compound (11) is CH₃.

Other specific amphiphilic compounds that can be used in the present invention include those described in U.S. Patent No. 5,530,113, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. Such compounds include the following exemplary lipid A analogs: B274, B276, B286, B288, B313, B314, B379, B385, B387, B388, B398, B400, B479, B214, B218, B231, B235, B272, B287, B294, B300, B318, B377, B380, B406, B410, B425, B426, B427, B442, B451, B452, B459, B460, B464, B465, B466, B531, B415, B718, B587, B737, B736, B725, B763, B477, B510, and the like.

15 Methods for making the above compounds are described in WO 96/39411 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

The lipopolysaccharides described in WO 96/39411 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366 are useful for treating and/or preventing any lipopolysaccharide-mediated disorder in a patient in need thereof including, for example, sepsis, septicemia (e.g., endotoxemia), endotoxemia associated with gram

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

negative bacteria (with its accompanying symptoms of fever, generalized inflammation, disseminated intravascular coagulation, hypotension, renal dysfunction and acute renal failure, acute respiratory distress syndrome, adult respiratory distress syndrome, hepatocellular destruction and/or cardiac failure), and various forms of septic shock (e.g., 5 endotoxic shock). The lipopolysaccharides described in these patents and publication are also useful for treating or preventing localized or systemic inflammatory response to infection by different types of organisms in a patient in need thereof, including gram negative bacteria, and in diseases related to translocation of gram negative bacteria or endotoxin from the gut. Together these disorders are termed systemic inflammatory 10 response syndrome or SIRS. "Patient" includes animals, preferably mammals, more preferably humans.

The compounds described in WO 96/39411 and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366 are administered in dosages which provide suitable inhibition of lipopolysaccharide activation of target cells; generally, these dosages 15 are, preferably between 0.01-50 mg/patient, more preferably, between 0.05-25 mg/patient and most preferably, between 1-12 mg/patient. Most preferably the dosages are administered over three to six days as a continuous infusion or as an intermittent dosing to obtain desired plasma concentrations. It will be understood, however, that the specific dose 20 level for any particular patient will depend on a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound used; the age, weight, general health, and sex of the patient being treated; the time and route of administration; the rate of excretion; other drugs which have previously been administered; and the severity of the particular disease being treated.

The micelles of the present invention and the solutions comprising micelles can be used for treating or preventing any disease or disorder that the amphiphilic compounds are 25 known to be useful for treating or preventing. As discussed above, for example, E5564 is known to be useful for treating sepsis. In the present invention, the micelles and solutions comprising micelles are preferably administered parenterally, although other forms of administration can be used (e.g., oral, topical, transdermal, ocular). The term parenteral as used herein includes subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, and intraarterial injections 30 with a variety of infusion techniques. Intraarterial and intravenous injection as used herein includes administration through catheters. Preferred for certain indications are methods of administration which allow rapid access to the tissue or organ being treated, such as intravenous injections for the treatment of endotoxemia when using E5564.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

Pharmaceutical compositions containing the active ingredient may be in any form suitable for the intended method of administration. Aqueous solutions and/or suspensions of the invention contain the active materials in admixture with excipients suitable for the manufacture thereof. Such excipients include a suspending agent, such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose, methylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, sodium alginate, polyvinylpyrrolidone, gum tragacanth and gum acacia, and dispersing or wetting agents such as a naturally occurring phosphatide (e.g., lecithin), a condensation product of an alkylene oxide with a fatty acid (e.g., polyoxyethylene stearate), a condensation product of ethylene oxide with a long chain aliphatic alcohol (e.g., heptadecaethyleneoxycetanol), a condensation product of ethylene oxide with a partial ester derived from a fatty acid and a 10 hexitol anhydride (e.g., polyoxyethylene sorbitan mono-oleate). The aqueous suspension may also contain one or more preservative such as ethyl or n-propyl p-hydroxybenzoate.

The pharmaceutical compositions of the invention are preferably in the form of a sterile injectable preparation, such as a sterile injectable aqueous or oleaginous suspension. 15 This suspension may be formulated according to the known art using those suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents which have been mentioned above. The sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic parenterally-acceptable diluent or solvent, such as a solution in 1,3-butanediol or prepared as a lyophilized powder. Among the acceptable vehicles and solvents that may be 20 employed are water, Ringer's solution and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile fixed oils may conventionally be employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid may likewise be used in the preparation of injectables.

25 Formulations suitable for parenteral administration include aqueous and non-aqueous isotonic sterile injection solutions which may contain anti-oxidants, buffers, bacteriostats and solutes which render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient; and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions which may include suspending agents and thickening agents. The formulations may be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose 30 sealed containers, for example, ampules and vials, and may be stored in a freeze-dried (lyophilized) condition requiring only the addition of the sterile liquid carrier, for example water for injections, immediately prior to use. Extemporaneous injection solutions and suspensions may be prepared from sterile powders of the kind previously described.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

When using a lyophilized drug product, clinicians typically reconstitute the freeze-dried preparation in physiologically acceptable solutions. It is desirable to be able to store the reconstituted solution either at room temperature or under refrigeration. Freeze-dried preparations of the micelles described herein are rehydratable with water or an aqueous dextrose solution suitable for intravenous administration, with the micelle hydrodynamic diameter distribution remaining unchanged. Such reconstituted micelle solutions can be stored at room temperature or refrigerated temperatures with no change in the micelle hydrodynamic diameter.

Examples

10 The following examples are for purposes of illustration only, and are not intended to limit the scope of the appended claims.

Example 1

E5564 is a lipopolysaccharide analog comprising two sugar moieties and four long chain fatty acid moieties and has a molecular weight of about 1,401. Methods for preparing 15 E5564 are described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,530,113, 5,681,824, 5,750,664, 5,935,938, and 6,184,366, and WO 96/39411, the disclosures of which are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety. E5564 drug formulations with varying micelle hydrodynamic diameters, achieved by control of the pH and concentration of counter ions (e.g., sodium), were produced as follows.

20 E5564 was dissolved in an NaOH solution for 60 minutes. The pH of the NaOH solution can be varied from 9 to 13 by varying the NaOH and NaCl concentrations, such that the concentration of Na⁺ in each solution was kept constant at 0.01 M. The concentration of Na⁺ in the solution can be in the range from about 0 to 0.6 M, preferably from about 0.001 M to about 0.6 M. The E5564/NaOH solution was then combined with a 25 phosphate buffer solution to yield a solution with a pH of 7.5.

The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter was a monotonically decreasing function of pH in the alkaline solution, as shown in Figure 3, and unexpectedly produced a micelle having a hydrodynamic diameter as small as 7 nm to 9 nm. Moreover, when the pH of the E5564 alkaline solution was adjusted to pH 7.5 by the addition of a phosphate buffer, the 30 micelle hydrodynamic diameter unexpectedly remained the same (i.e., 7 nm to 9 nm), as shown in Figure 4. The hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles formed was stable (i.e., fixed) under conditions useful for the manufacture and use of pharmaceutical products. Pharmaceutical preparations are often packaged in vials in a liquid or freeze-dried form.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

The micelles of fixed hydrodynamic diameters, prepared as described herein, were stable in a liquid or freeze-dried form.

Example 2

Micelles of E5564 having a hydrodynamic diameter of 7 nm to 9 nm (Table 1) prepared as described above were lyophilized. After lyophilization the micelles were reconstituted with water and diluted in an aqueous dextrose solution (Table 2). The micelle hydrodynamic diameter of E5564 in the reconstituted solutions remained at 7 nm to 9 nm in the reconstituted physiologically acceptable solutions under various conditions. The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter was stable when reconstituted in water for 24 hours at 25°C or 72 hours at 2 to 8°C. The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter was unchanged after admixture with a 5% aqueous dextrose solution maintained at pH 7.4 and storage for 24 hours at 25°C or 72 hours at 2 to 8°C (Table 2). The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter was stable as a drug product stored in a lyophilized state at 25°C under 60% relative humidity, or under refrigeration (Table 3). Further, the E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter, in micelles prepared according to the methods of the present invention, was stable under simulated administration conditions using representative infusion equipment (Table 4).

20 **Table 1:** Micelle Hydrodynamic Diameter Data for E5564 Solutions Prior to Lyophilization

sample	hydrodynamic diameter (nm)
1	7.6 nm
2	7.4 nm
3	7.9 nm

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

Table 2: Micelle Hydrodynamic Diameter of E5564 after Storage of the Reconstituted and Admixed Solutions

sample	hydrodynamic diameter (nm)
<i>immediately following reconstitution (0.5 mg/mL)</i>	
sample-1	8.6
sample-2	7.7
sample-3	6.9
<i>storage for 24 hours at 25°C</i>	
sample-1	8.2
<i>storage for 72 hours at 2-8°C</i>	
sample-1	8.3
<i>immediately following admixture with 5% dextrose solution (0.14 mg/mL)</i>	
sample-1	7.7
sample-2	6.8
<i>storage for 24 hours at 25°C</i>	
sample-1	8.1
<i>storage for 72 hours at 2-8°C</i>	
sample-1	7.7

5

Table 3: Micelle Hydrodynamic Diameter of E5564 in the Reconstituted Solution after Storage of the Lyophilized Drug Product

sample	hydrodynamic diameter (nm)
<i>initial</i>	
sample-1	8.6
sample-2	7.7
sample-3	6.9
<i>6 months at 2-8°C</i>	
sample-1	7.5
<i>6 months at 25°C/60%RH</i>	
sample-1	7.3
sample-2	7.2

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

Table 4: E5564 Micelle Hydrodynamic Diameter before and after a Simulated I.V. Infusion using Administration Equipment

Administration Conditions	Mean Micelle Hydrodynamic Diameter (nm) by DLS
0.5 mg/mL - control	7.5
0.5 mg/mL - 1.4 mL/hr - 30 minutes	7.5
0.14 mg/mL - control	7.7
0.14 mg/mL - 5.0 mL/hr - 30 minutes	8.7

5 The following conditions apply to the data in Table 4: Microbore 60" extension set with PVC free fluid path, No. V6212 (McGraw, Inc.); 3 cc syringe with Luer Lok, No. 309585 (Becton Dickenson); Injection site with Luer Lok, No. 2N1199 (Baxter); Needle, 20G 1, No. 305175 (Becton Dickenson); I.V. catheter, JELCO, No. 4050 (Johnson & Johnson Medical Inc.). "DLS" refers to Dynamic Light Scattering.

10 **Example 3**

The micelle hydrodynamic diameter formed utilizing the methods of the invention was destabilized by added salt. Figure 2 shows the increase in micelle hydrodynamic diameter (as measured by an increase in light scattering intensity, R90) with added NaCl. The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter remained unchanged for 24 hours after 15 addition of 0.01 M NaCl. Changes in micelle hydrodynamic diameter were observed after 24 hours with the addition of 0.03 M NaCl or greater. However, up to 0.07 M NaCl was added with no immediately appreciable change in micelle hydrodynamic diameter. Therefore, higher salt concentrations can be added if the required stability time is less than 24 hours.

20 **Example 4**

E5564 was dissolved in an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution to a pH of 10.1 to form an E5564 micelle with a hydrodynamic diameter of 7 nm. This solution was then combined with a lactose containing phosphate buffer solution to yield a solution pH of 7-8. The E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter in this phosphate buffer solution was 7 nm. 25 This solution was then filtered through a 0.2 μ m filter to render the solution sterile in the manner conventional to pharmaceutical manufacturing. The sterile solution was then filled into vials and freeze-dried. The micelle hydrodynamic diameter was stable upon freeze-drying. The freeze-dried product was re-hydrated with water and the E5564 micelle hydrodynamic diameter was 7 nm.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

All patents, patent applications, and publications referred to herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

Although the present invention has been set forth in detail, one skilled in the art will appreciate that changes and modifications may be made without departing from the 5 spirit and scope of the invention or appended claims.

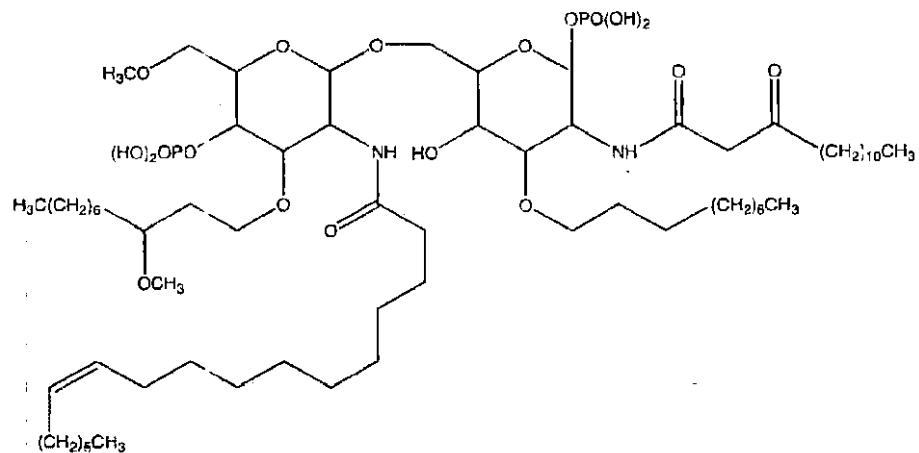
WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method for preparing a micelle of Compound (1), a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and/or a stereoisomer thereof comprising:
5 adding an amount of Compound (1) to a first aqueous alkaline solution comprising at least one basic metal salt, at least one neutral salt, and a predetermined concentration of metal ion; wherein Compound (1) is:



thereby

- 10 forming a second aqueous alkaline solution comprising micelles of Compound (1)
having a preselected hydrodynamic diameter.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
adding the second aqueous alkaline solution to third aqueous solution comprising a
buffer system or at least one strong acid; thereby
15 forming a fourth aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the
second aqueous alkaline solution, wherein the fourth aqueous solution comprises micelles
of Compound (1) having a preselected hydrodynamic diameter that is substantially the
same as the preselected hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles of Compound (1) in the
second aqueous alkaline solution.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

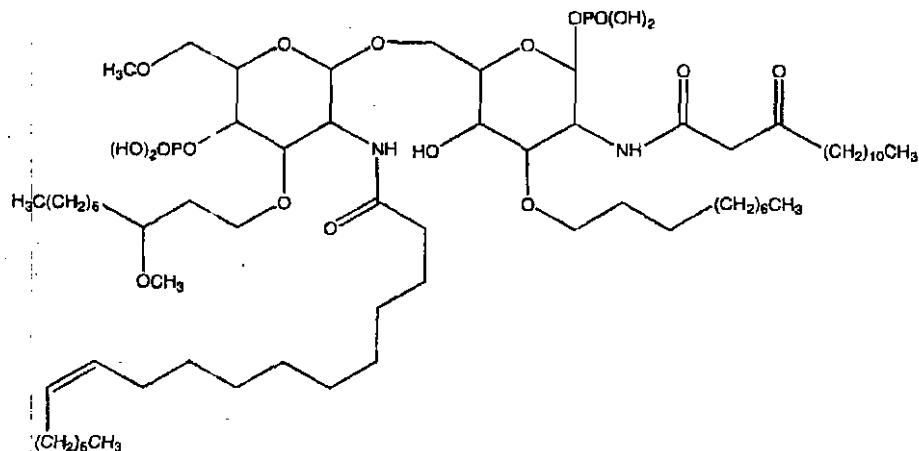
3. The method of claim 1, wherein Compound (1) is E5564.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the pH of the second aqueous alkaline solution is from about 9 to about 13; wherein the basic metal salt is NaOH; wherein the neutral metal salt is NaCl; wherein the metal ion is Na^+ in a concentration from about 5 0.001 M to about 0.01 M; and wherein the preselected hydrodynamic diameter is from about 5 nm to about 20 nm.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the pH of the second aqueous alkaline solution is from about 10 to about 12; wherein the concentration of Na^+ is about 0.01 M; and wherein the preselected hydrodynamic diameter is from about 7 nm to about 9 nm.
- 10 6. The method of claim 2, wherein the pH of the fourth aqueous solution is from about 4 to less than 9; and wherein the preselected hydrodynamic diameter is from about 5 nm to about 20 nm.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the pH of the fourth aqueous solution is from about 7 to about 8; and wherein the preselected hydrodynamic diameter is from 15 about 7 nm to about 9 nm.
8. The method of claim 2, wherein the buffer system is a phosphate buffer system, an acetate buffer system, a citrate buffer system, a maleate buffer system, a carbonate buffer system, a bicarbonate buffer system, a tartrate buffer system, a tromethamine buffer system, a triethanolamine buffer system or a meglumine buffer system; and wherein the strong acid is one or more of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid or 20 phosphoric acid.
9. A micelle produced by the method of claim 1 or claim 2.
10. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the micelle of claim 9 to the patient.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

11. A method for treating sepsis in a patient in need thereof comprising intravenously administering an effective amount of the micelle of claim 9 to the patient.
12. An aqueous solution comprising a micelle prepared by the method of claim 1 or claim 2.
- 5 13. A method of delivering an aqueous solution comprising a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the aqueous solution of claim 12 to the patient.
14. A method for treating sepsis in a patient in need thereof comprising intravenously administering an effective amount of the aqueous solution of claim 12 to the patient.

- 10 15. A micelle comprising Compound (1), a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and/or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein the micelle has a hydrodynamic diameter of about 5 nm to about 20 nm, wherein Compound (1) is:

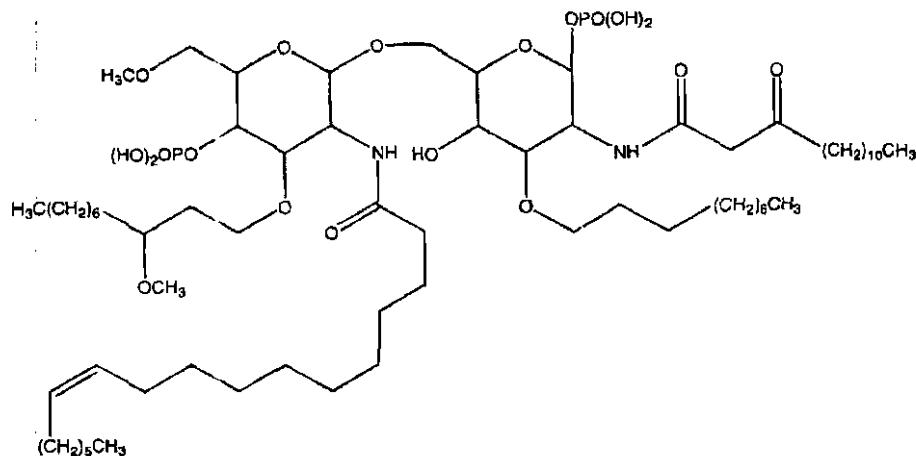


- 15 16. The micelle of claim 15, wherein Compound (1) is E5564.
17. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the micelle of claim 15 to the patient.
18. A method for treating sepsis in a patient in need thereof comprising intravenously administering an effective amount of the micelle of claim 15 to the patient.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

19. An aqueous solution comprising at least one micelle of Compound (1), a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and/or a stereoisomer thereof, wherein the micelle has a hydrodynamic diameter of about 5 nm to about 20 nm; and wherein Compound (1) is:



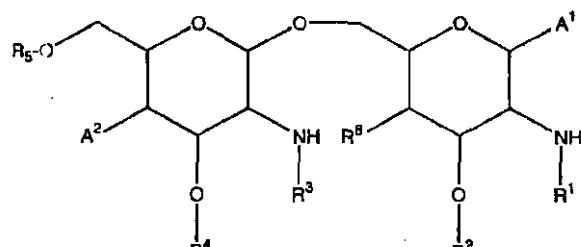
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20. The aqueous solution of claim 19, wherein Compound (1) is E5564.
21. A method for delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the aqueous solution of claim 19.
22. A method for treating sepsis in a patient in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of the aqueous solution of claim 19 to the patient.
- 10 23. A method for preparing micelles comprising:
providing an amount of least one acidic amphiphilic compound, wherein the acidic amphiphilic compound comprises at least one ionizable group;
adding the acidic amphiphilic compound to a first aqueous alkaline solution
- 15 comprising at least one basic metal salt, at least one neutral metal salt, and a predetermined concentration of metal ion; thereby forming a second aqueous alkaline solution comprising micelles of the acidic amphiphilic compound with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter.

WO 01/60382

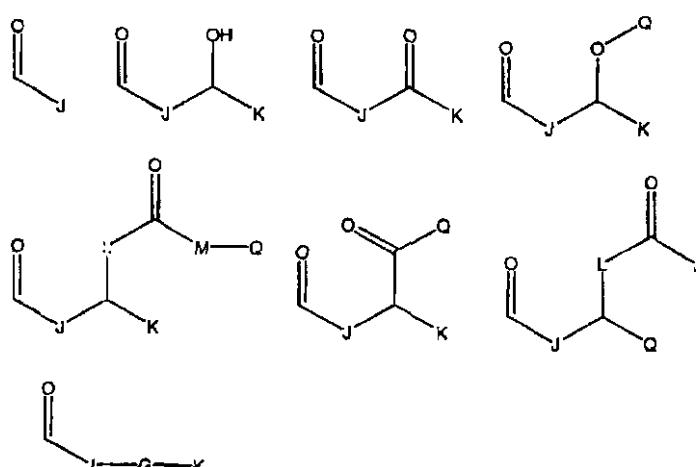
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24. The method of claim 23, wherein the preselected hydrodynamic diameter is from about 1 nm to about 100 nm.
25. The method of claim 23, wherein the first aqueous alkaline solution has a pH from about 9 to about 13.
- 5 26. The method of claim 23, wherein the metal ion is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Fe^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Al^{3+} , Mn^{3+} , Mn^{2+} , Zn^{2+} , Cu^{2+} , Cu^+ , Ni^{2+} , Sn^{2+} , Na^+ , Li^+ and K^+ .
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the metal ion is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Na^+ , K^+ , Li^+ , Ca^{2+} , Ba^{2+} , Mg^{2+} and Al^{3+} .
- 10 28. The method of claim 23, wherein the acidic amphiphilic compound is a compound of Formula (A), a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, or a stereoisomer thereof:



(A)

15 wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of:



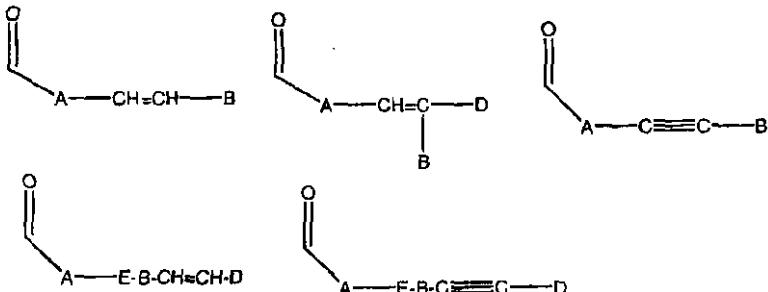
J, K and Q are each independently a straight or branched C_{1-15} alkyl;

WO 01/60382

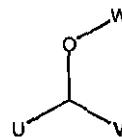
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L is O, N or C;

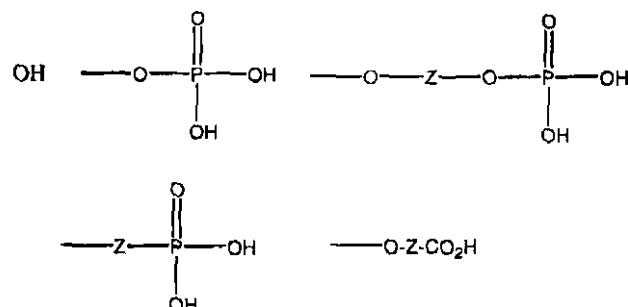
M is O or N;

G is N, O, S, SO or SO₂;R² is a straight or branched C₅₋₁₅ alkyl;5 R³ is selected from the group consisting of:E is N, O, S, SO or SO₂;A, B and D are each independently a straight or branched C₁₋₁₅ alkyl group;R⁴ is a straight or branched C₄₋₂₀ alkyl group or

10

U and V are each independently a straight or branched C₂₋₁₅ alkyl group;W is a hydrogen or a straight or branched C₁₋₅ alkyl group;R⁵ is hydrogen, -J', -J'-OH, -J'-O-K', -J'-O-K'-OH or J'-O-PO(OH)₂;J' and K' are each independently a straight or branched C₁₋₅ alkyl group;

15

R⁶ is hydroxy, halogen, a C₁₋₅ alkoxy group or a C₁₋₅ acyloxy group;A¹ and A² are each independently selected from the group consisting of:Z is a straight or branched C₁₋₁₀ alkyl group.

29. The method of claim 23, further comprising:

20 adding the second aqueous alkaline solution to a third aqueous solution comprising

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

a buffer system or at least one strong acid; thereby forming a fourth aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the second aqueous alkaline solution, wherein the fourth aqueous solution comprises micelles having a preselected hydrodynamic diameter that is substantially the same as the 5 preselected hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the second aqueous alkaline solution.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the neutral pH of the fourth aqueous solution is between about 4 and less than 9.

31. The method of claim 29, wherein the buffer system is a phosphate buffer 10 system, an acetate buffer system, a citrate buffer system, a maleate buffer system, a carbonate buffer system, a bicarbonate buffer system, a tartrate buffer system, a tromethamine buffer system, a triethanolamine buffer system or a meglumine buffer system; and wherein the strong acid is at least one of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid and phosphoric acid.

15 32. The method of claim 29, further comprising lyophilizing the fourth aqueous solution.

33. A micelle produced by the method of claim 23 or claim 29.

34. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the micelle of claim 33 to the patient.

20 35. An aqueous solution produced by the method of claim 23 or claim 29.

36. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously administering the aqueous solution of claim 35 to the patient.

37. A method for preparing micelles comprising:
providing an amount of least one basic amphiphilic compound that comprises at 25 least one ionizable group;

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

adding the basic amphiphilic compound to a first aqueous acidic solution comprising at least one protic acidic, at least one neutral metal salt, and a predetermined concentration of metal ion; thereby forming a second aqueous acidic solution comprising micelles of the acidic 5 amphiphilic compound with a preselected hydrodynamic diameter.

38. The method of claim 37, further comprising adding the second aqueous acidic solution to a third aqueous solution comprising a buffer system or at least one strong base; thereby forming a fourth aqueous solution having a neutral pH relative to the pH of the 10 second aqueous acidic solution, wherein the fourth aqueous solution comprises micelles having a preselected hydrodynamic diameter that is substantially the same as the preselected hydrodynamic diameter of the micelles in the second aqueous acidic solution.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the buffer system is a phosphate buffer system, an acetate buffer system, a citrate buffer system, a maleate buffer system, a 15 carbonate buffer system, a bicarbonate buffer system, a tartrate buffer system, a tromethamine buffer system, a triethanolamine buffer system or a meglumine buffer system; and wherein the strong base is sodium hydroxide or potassium hydroxide.

40. A micelle produced by the method of claim 37 or claim 38.

41. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously 20 administering the micelle of claim 40 to the patient.

42. An aqueous solution produced by the method of claim 37 or claim 38.

43. A method of delivering a micelle to a patient comprising intravenously 45 administering the aqueous solution of claim 42 to the patient.

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

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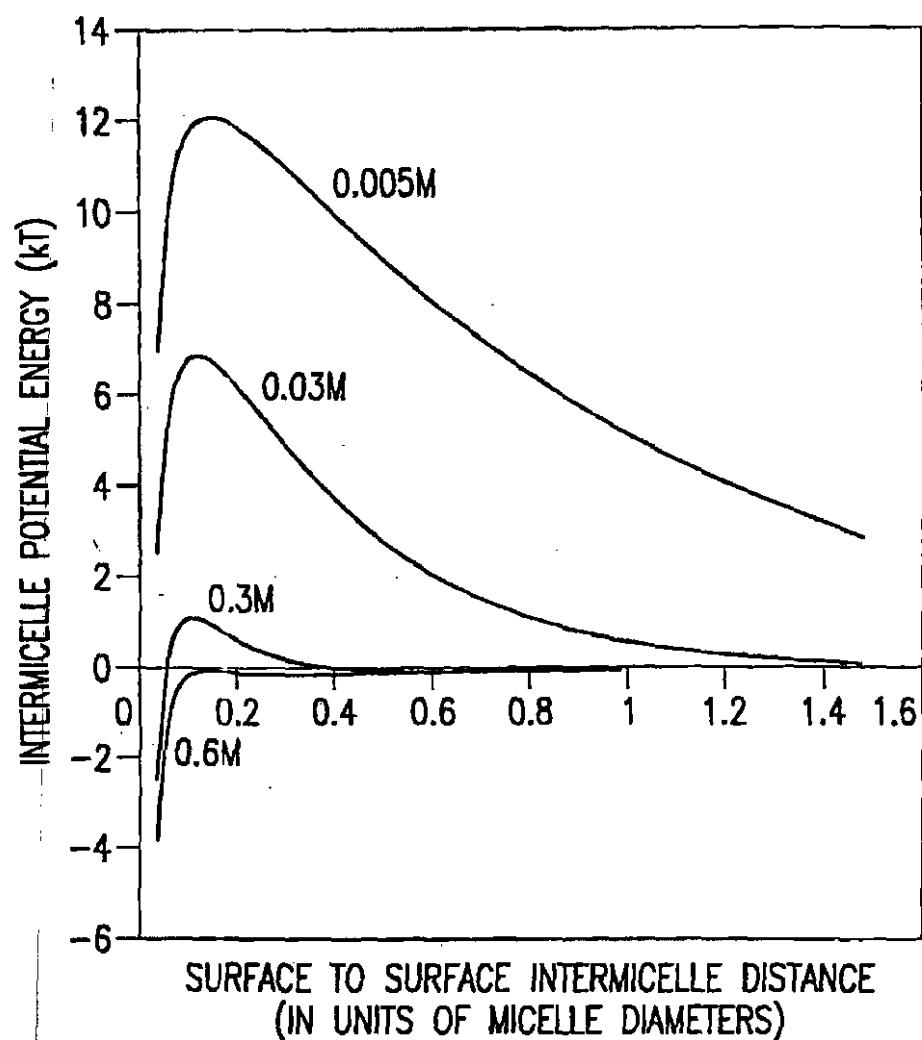


FIG.1

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

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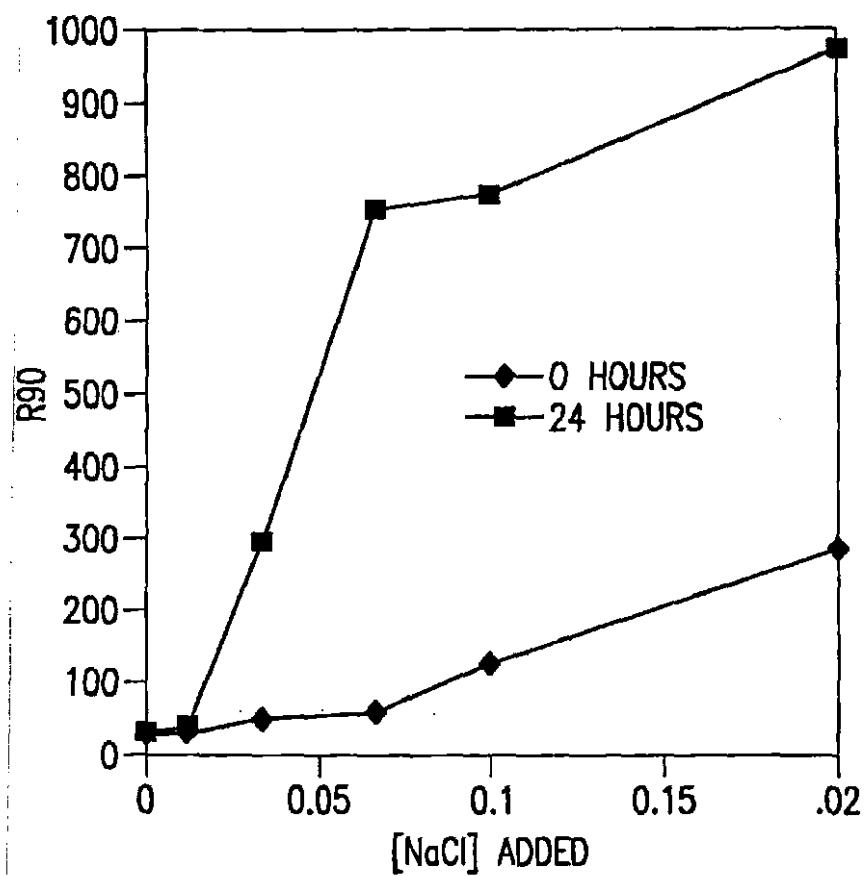


FIG.2

WO 01/60382

PCT/US01/05297

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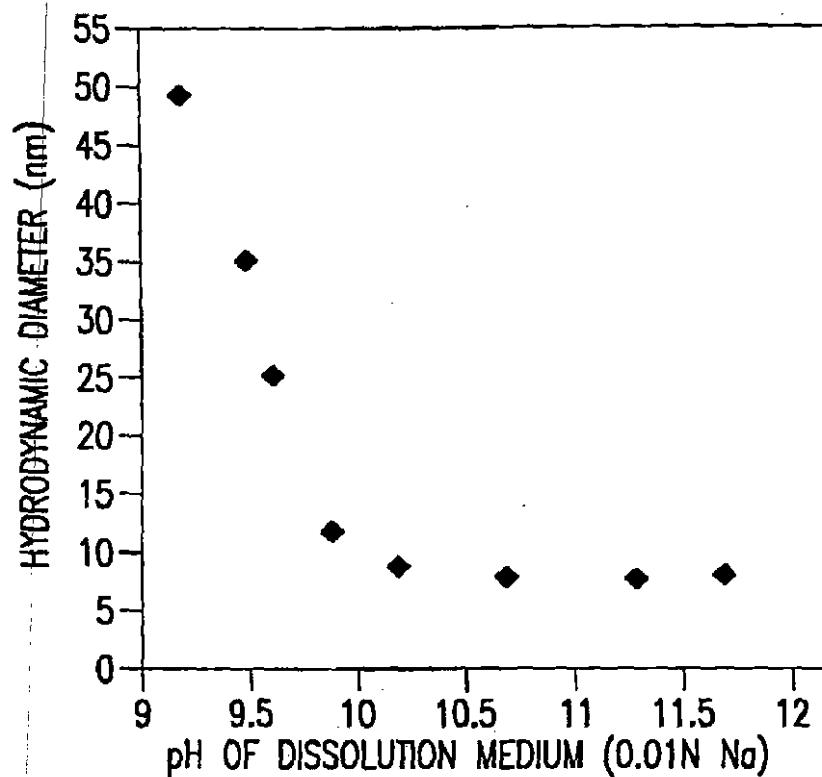


FIG.3

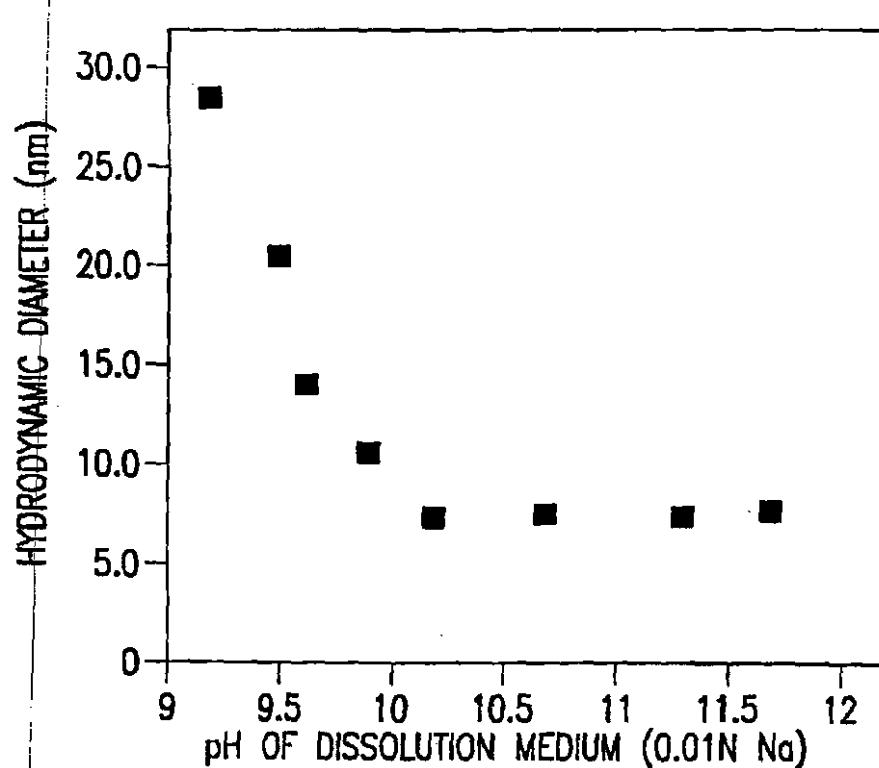


FIG.4

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/05297

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : A61K 31/70
US CL : 514/53, 536/53, 55.3

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 514/53, 536/53, 55.3

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

CAS ONLINE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,681,824 A (CHRIST et al.) 28 October 1997(28.10.97), see entire document, especially columns 4-7.	1-43
Y	US 5,750,664 A (CHRIST et al.) 12 May 1998(12.05.98), see entire document, especially columns 4-7.	1-43

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"B" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Z"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 APRIL 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

22 MAY 2001

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for
Dana

摘 要

本发明提供一种微团、含有该微团的溶液、制备微团的方法，以及为患者投送微团的方法。这些微团具有固定的、预选择的流体动力学直径，用碱性或酸性两亲性化合物形成。