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(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method and a product for lightening of skin and also for blemish removal on the skin. The invention provides for a method of lightening skin comprising the sequential steps, in any order, of; a) applying an alcohol having carbon chain length of 2 to 4, to the skin; and b) applying a skin lightening agent to said skin. The invention also provides for a kit for skin lightening comprising an alcohol having carbon chain length of 2 to 4 and a separately packaged skin lightening agent, along with instructions for their use. It is particularly preferred that the alcohol is impregnated in porous water-insoluble substrate.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61K8/34 A61K8/67

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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 practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 96/37179 A1 (UNILEVER PLC [GB]; UNILEVER NV [NL]) 28 November 1996 (1996-11-28) page 3, line 29 - page 4, line 10 claim 13; example 6	1–13
(FR 2 906 463 A1 (OREAL [FR]) 4 April 2008 (2008-04-04) page 18, line 34 - page 19, line 12; claims 20, 22	1–13
X	EP 0 729 746 A1 (UNILEVER PLC [GB]; UNILEVER NV [NL]) 4 September 1996 (1996-09-04) page 2, line 14 - page 2, line 15; examples 1-5	12-13

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.	X See patent family annex.
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filling date "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) "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	"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 "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 "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. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report
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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Szarek, Sophie

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