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(54) Title: PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULATION

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides a pharmaceutical formulation which comprises a core comprising a first active ingredient, a coating comprising a second active ingredient which is incompatible with the first active ingredient and a barrier between the core and the coating which prevents physical contact between the core and the coating, characterised in that the barrier is formed on the core by film-coating and the coating is formed on the barrier by press-coating.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01668

<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b>		
IPC 7	A61K9/20	A61P1/04
	A61K31/616 A61K31/60.	
	//((A61K31/616,31:341)	
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)		
IPC 7	A61K	A61P
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, PAJ, BIOSIS, EMBASE, CHEM ABS Data		
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 105 065 A (MATHUR KISHAN NARAIN) 11 April 1984 (1984-04-11)	1-3,9,10
Y	page 1, line 1 -page 4, line 18; claims 1-11	4-8
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X	US 5 425 950 A (DANDIKER YOGENDRA ET AL) 20 June 1995 (1995-06-20)	1-3,9,10
Y	column 2, line 33 -column 5, line 13; claims 1-15	4-8
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X	US 5 702 723 A (GRIFFIN DAVID) 30 December 1997 (1997-12-30)	1-3,9,10
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Y	EP 0 546 593 A (GLAXO GROUP LTD) 16 June 1993 (1993-06-16)	1-10
	page 4, line 5 -page 5, line 52; claims 1-13; examples 12-15	
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Patent family members are listed in annex.	
° Special categories of cited documents :		
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*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	
*E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	*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	
*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)	*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.	
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	*&* document member of the same patent family	
*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	Date of mailing of the international search report	
21 November 2002	29/11/2002	
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer	
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Kling, I	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01668

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	GB 874 586 A (UPJOHN CO) 10 August 1961 (1961-08-10) page 3, right-hand column, line 76 -page 4, right-hand column, line 93; claims 1-14; examples 1-7 -----	1-10
A	GB 1 037 689 A (ABBOTT LAB) 3 August 1966 (1966-08-03) claims 1-13 -----	1-10

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Present claims 1 -3, 9, 10 relate to an extremely large number of possible compounds being active ingredients. In fact, the claims contain so many options, variables, possible permutations and provisos that a lack of clarity and conciseness within the meaning of Article 6 PCT arises to such an extent as to render a meaningful search of the claims impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be clear and concise, namely the subject-matter of claims 4 to 8, e.g those pharmaceutical formulation which comprises the compounds recited in the examples (ranitidine and acetylsalicylic acid) and closely related homologous compounds, and those mentioned in the description at pages 1 and 2, and the examples 1 and 2.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims, or parts of claims, relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/EP 02/01668

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:  
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
  
3.  Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT  
Information on patent family members

International Application No  
PCT/EP 02/01668

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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