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(54) RADIOACTIVE SCANNING AGENTS WITH HYDROQUINONE  
STABILIZER

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RADIOACTIVE SCANNING AGENTS  
WITH HYDROQUINONE STABILIZER

Harry S. Whitehouse

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Stable compositions, useful as technetium-99m-based scintigraphic agents, comprise hydroquinone in combination with a pertechnetate reducing agent or dissolved in per-  
5 technetate-99m ( $^{99m}\text{TcO}_4^-$ ) solution. The compositions are especially useful in combination with a phosphate or phosphonate material which carries the radionuclide to bone, thus providing a skeletal imaging agent.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10           This invention relates to compositions useful in the preparation of stable scintigraphic scanning (or, "radio-diagnostic") agents employing technetium-99m. More particularly, hydroquinone is used as a non-interfering stabilizer for such compositions.

15           Scintigraphy and similar radiographic techniques are finding ever increasing application in biological and medical research and diagnostic procedures. In general, scintigraphy procedures involve the preparation of radioactive scanning agents which, upon introduction into a  
20           biological subject, become localized in specific organs,



tissue or skeletal material which are under study. When so localized, traces, plots or scintiphotos of the distribution of the radioactive material can be made by various radiation detectors, i.e., such as traversing scanners, scintillation cameras and the like. The resultant distribution and corresponding relative intensities can then be used to indicate the position occupied by the tissue in which the radionuclide is localized as well as indicate the presence of aberrations, pathological conditions, and the like.

10 In general, and depending on the type of radionuclide used and the organ of interest, a scintigraphic scanning agent as used in the hospital comprises a radionuclide, a carrier agent designed to target the specific organ, various auxiliary agents which affix the radionuclide to the carrier, 15 water or other delivery vehicle suitable for injection into, or aspiration by, the patient, physiologic buffers and salts, and the like.

Technetium-99m is a radionuclide which is widely known for use in tissue scanning agents. This radionuclide 20 is conveniently available from commercial pertechnetate sources.

Pertechnetate is in the +7 oxidation state, which is too high to be used in the preparation of scanning agents such as those used for bone mineral and lung. This problem 25 is easily overcome by reducing the pertechnetate to what is believed to be the +3, +4 and/or +5 oxidation state.

In general,  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -labeled scanning agents are prepared by admixing a pertechnetate-99m isotonic saline solution with a pertechnetate reducing agent such as the 30 stannous, ferrous or chromous salt of sulfuric or hydrochloric acid, and the desired carrier agent for targeting

the organ of interest. For example, U.S. Patent 3,983,227, Tofe and Francis, discloses the use of reducing salts with radioactive pertechnetate solutions and organophosphonate bone-seeking carriers to prepare bone scanning agents.

5 U.S. Patent 4,002,730, Tofe, Hartman and Kretschmar, describes  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  lung scanning agents prepared by mixing a pertechnetate solution from commercial generators with stannous/starch particles which provide a combined reducing agent/carrier.

While such procedures provide scanning agents which  
10 are superior to those previously available, they have shortcomings. Most notably, it has been found that conventional technetium-containing scintigraphic scanning agents are unstable in the presence of oxygen and radiolysis products. Accordingly, previously-described technetium-  
15 based scanning agents have been made oxygen-free by saturating the composition with oxygen-free nitrogen gas or by preparing the agent in an oxygen-free atmosphere or in a vacuum. However, even such painstaking precautionary procedures are not entirely satisfactory, since it is extremely difficult  
20 to maintain oxygen-free conditions. For instance, pertechnetate solutions may contain dissolved oxygen which, if not detected prior to combination with the pertechnetate reducing agent, forms a product which is unstable and results in the undesirable formation of free pertechnetate- $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ .

25 Others have disclosed means for overcoming the afore-said instability problem using chemical stabilizers. German Offenlegungsschrift 2,618,337, Tofe, published November 11, 1976, discloses the use of ascorbate stabilizers with technetium scanning agents. U.S. Patent 4,075,314, issued  
30 February 21, 1978, discloses the use of ascorbate to inhibit

the oxidation of  $\text{Sn}^{+2}$  and to inhibit the reoxidation of reduced technetium in a pyrophosphate-based bone scanning agent.

U.S. Patent 4,233,284 of M. Fawzi, issued  
5 November 11, 1980, said patent being  
entitled STABILIZED RADIOGRAPHIC SCANNING AGENTS,  
discloses the use of gentisic acid to stabilize radiodiagnostic compositions.

U.S. Patent No. 4,232,000 of M. Fawzi, granted  
November 4, 1980, discloses the  
use of gentisyl alcohol to stabilize radiodiagnostic  
compositions.

15 It has now been discovered that hydroquinone com-  
pounds are safe, effective, and non-interfering stabilizers  
for scanning agents used in the radiographic diagnosis of  
tissues (including bone mineral) of humans and lower animals.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Materials which are useful stabilizers for radio-  
diagnostic agents must exhibit the following properties:

- 5 1) Toxicological acceptability under the condi-  
tions of use;
- 2) The ability to stabilize the product for a  
reasonable period of storage and/or under use  
conditions; and
- 10 3) No substantial interference with the delivery  
of the radionuclide to the intended organ.

The present invention is based on the discovery that  
hydroquinone stabilizes radiodiagnostic agents without  
interfering with the ability of such agents to target specific  
organs. When used in the manner disclosed herein, hydroquinone  
15 meets all of the above three criteria for a stabilizer.

The present invention provides highly stable composi-  
tions useful in the preparation of technetium-99m-based  
scintigraphic scanning agents. The compositions of the  
present invention comprise a pertechnetate reducing agent or  
20 oxidized pertechnetate solution and an effective amount,  
sufficient to stabilize said compositions in the presence of  
oxygen and radiolysis products, of hydroquinone.

In a preferred method aspect, the present invention  
encompasses an improved method of preparing a technetium-  
25 based scanning agent comprising codissolving hydroquinone  
and a pertechnetate reducing agent in an oxidized pertechnetate  
solution.

The stabilizing amount of hydroquinone stabilizer used in the practice of this invention is an amount which inhibits or reduces the oxidation of the pertechnetate reducing agent (e.g., oxidation of  $\text{Sn}^{+2}$  to  $\text{Sn}^{+4}$ ) during storage and/or inhibits or reduces the reoxidation of 5 reduced technetium and/or formation of technetium-labeled impurities during use.

All percentages and ratios herein are by weight, unless otherwise specified.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

This invention is based on the discovery that hydroquinone can be utilized to prepare highly stable technetium-99m-based scintigraphic scanning agents. While not intending to be limited by theory, in aqueous solution hydroquinone can assume the structure of various quinonoid species which may contribute to the stabilizing activity. Hydroquinone and the quinonoids are referred to collectively hereinafter as the "quinone stabilizer". As known in the art, <sup>99m</sup>Tc-labeled scanning agents are prepared by mixing a pertechnetate solution with a pertechnetate reducing agent. It has been found that small amounts of hydroquinone can be combined with either the pertechnetate solution or the pertechnetate reducing agent, thereby providing compositions uniquely suited for the preparation of superior, stable <sup>99m</sup>Tc scanning agents.

There are several compositional aspects to the present invention. In one aspect, compositions of the present invention comprise a pertechnetate reducing agent which provides a pertechnetate reducing metal or cation, and the quinone stabilizer. Such compositions comprise a stabilizing amount of the quinone stabilizer. In a second aspect, the compositions of the present invention comprise a pertechnetate solution having dissolved therein a stabilizing amount of the quinone stabilizer.

When practicing the present invention, it is not critical which compositional form is used to prepare the final technetium-based scanning agent. Commercial producers of pertechnetate generators may find it desirable to dissolve low levels of the quinone stabilizer directly into the

pertechnetate solution as it is eluted from the generator, or to incorporate a quinone stabilizer directly on the generator column. Alternatively, it may be more convenient to combine the quinone with the pertechnetate reducing agent. In either case, upon combining the pertechnetate solution with the reducing agent and quinone stabilizer, an improved, highly stable scanning agent is provided.

#### Hydroquinone Stabilizer

The hydroquinone (p-dihydroxybenzene) stabilizer used herein is commercially available, or can be obtained by the oxidation of aniline with sodium dichromate and sulfuric acid, with subsequent treatment with bisulfite. Low concentrations of hydroquinone have been proposed as a food antioxidant: Carlson, BREWER, Proc. Soc. Exptl. Biol. Med. 84, 684 (1953).

When used as a stabilizer material, it is generally assumed that hydroquinone forms benzoquinone by the dismutation of two semiquinone radicals. This necessarily implies that semiquinone radicals are formed in the oxidation inhibition reaction. On the other hand, some authors feel that various peroxidic species may exist in solution. Lundberg, AUTOOXIDATION and ANTIOXIDANTS, Vol. 1, 147, Interscience (1961). Whatever the quinonoid stabilizer species formed in solution, the stabilizing effect is achieved by using hydroquinone in the manner disclosed herein.

Reducing Agent

In embodiments of this invention in which the quinone stabilizer is combined with the pertechnetate reducing agent, the choice of reducing agent is not critical.

5 As used herein the term "pertechnetate reducing agent" is intended to include compounds, complexes, or the like, comprising a reducing ion capable of reducing heptavalent technetium ( $\text{TcO}_4^-$ ) to trivalent, tetravalent and/or penta-  
10 valent technetium. Free metals such as tin are also known for use as pertechnetate reducing agents, although undissolved metal must be removed from the scanning solution prior to injection into the patient. Thus, it is more convenient to use metal compounds which provide the reducing metal cation in soluble form.

15 Suitable pertechnetate reducing agents can be combined with numerous adjuvants such as fillers and skeletal- or other organ-specific carriers. As disclosed by Tofe and Francis, and Tofe, et al., above, skeletal scanning agents have been prepared utilizing metallic salts of sulfuric and  
20 hydrochloric acid such as stannous chloride, chromous chloride and ferrous sulfate as the pertechnetate reducing agent in combination with various organic phosphonates and/or phosphates as the bone seeking carrier. Other systems capable of reducing pertechnetate-99m include, for example,  
25 acid-thiosulfates, acid-hydrogen-sulfates, iron colloids, and acid-borohydrides. U.S. Patents 3,735,001 granted May 22, 1973; 3,863,004 granted January 28, 1975; 3,466,361 granted September 9, 1969; 3,720,761 granted March 13, 1973; 3,723,612 granted March 27, 1973; 3,725,295 granted April 3,

1973; 3,803,299 granted April 9, 1974; and 3,749,556 granted July 31, 1973 ; dis-

close various pertechnetate reducing agents comprising reducing ions capable of reducing heptavalent pertechnetate to appropriate lower valence states.

The amount of the quinone stabilizer utilized in embodiments of this invention in which the quinone is combined with a reducing agent will vary depending on the ultimate use of the composition and the amount of inert or filler materials utilized. Too much quinone stabilizer can cause excess soft tissue uptake and can interfere with organ (especially bone) imaging. In general, the weight ratio of quinone stabilizer:reducing agent in a quinone-plus-reducing agent composition is in the range of about 30:1 to about 1:30, preferably about 10:1 to about 1:1, more preferably about 5:1 to 1:1, most preferably about 3:1.

Where it is desirable to incorporate the quinone stabilizer directly into the pertechnetate solution, the soluble quinone compound can be simply dissolved either during or after elution of the pertechnetate source. The elution process is thoroughly described in U.S. Patent 3,369,121.

In embodiments of the present invention in which the quinone stabilizer is dissolved in a pertechnetate solution, the concentration of quinone will vary somewhat depending upon the degree of aqueous dilution. With current commercial pertechnetate sources, a concentration of quinone no greater than about 0.1%, preferably no greater than 0.05%, by weight, provides adequate stability and does not interfere with organ distribution of the scanning agent. A

concentration within the range of from about 0.0005% to about 0.05% is quite acceptable for many applications.

The present invention also encompasses an improved method of preparing technetium-based scanning agents comprising codissolving a quinone stabilizer and a pertechnetate reducing agent in an aqueous pertechnetate solution. As described above, the quinone compound and pertechnetate reducing agent can be either simultaneously dissolved or sequentially dissolved in the pertechnetate solution. Either codissolving procedure results in an improved technetium-based scanning agent.

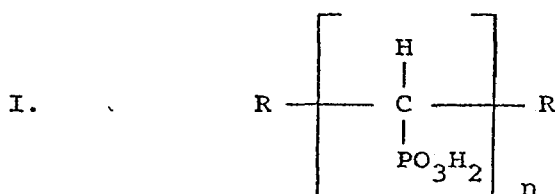
Scanning agents also typically employ carrier agents which direct, or "target", the radionuclide to the desired organ. Broadly speaking, there are two classes of such carrier agents: those which target soft tissue organs such as the heart, marrow, liver, spleen, kidneys and lungs; and those which target calcified tissue, such as bone and other tissues which may be undergoing pathological calcification. Examples of such carrier, or "targeting", agents for soft tissues include: colloidal sulfur, albumin, and the like. Targeting agents for bone mineral include the water-soluble phosphates and (preferably) phosphonates.

For purposes of the present invention a normal physiologically-acceptable pH of from about 3 to 8, preferably 4 to about 6, is used in the preparation of the scanning agent.

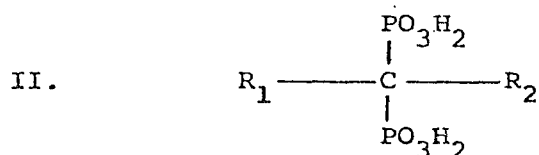
In a preferred and convenient embodiment of the present invention, a stable technetium-based skeletal scanning agent can be formed by the direct addition of an

aqueous, radioactive pertechnetate solution to a composition comprising: an amount of a pertechnetate reducing agent containing a metallic reducing ion in water-soluble form, such as stannous chloride, sufficient to reduce said per-  
 5 technetate; an amount of a water-soluble quinone compound sufficient to stabilize the skeletal scanning agent; and an amount of a skeletal-specific carrier compound selected from the mono-, di- or polyphosphonates sufficient to carry the radioactive technetium to bone. The ratio of reducing  
 10 agent:phosphonate:quinone can be adjusted to provide skeletal uptake with sufficiently low soft tissue uptake that scan quality is not undesirably affected.

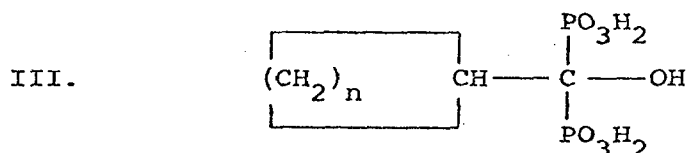
A broad range of mono-, di- and polyphosphonates are now known to concentrate on the skeleton upon injection  
 15 of solutions thereof into a patient. Operable species for this purpose include mono-, di- and polyphosphonates selected from the group consisting of:



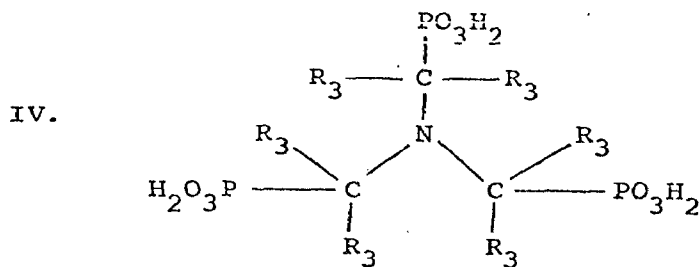
wherein each R is hydrogen or CH<sub>2</sub>OH and n is an integer  
 20 of from 3 to 10;



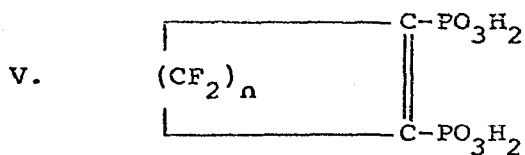
wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is hydrogen, alkyl containing from 1 to about 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl containing from 2 to about 20 carbon atoms, aryl (e.g., phenyl, naphthyl), phenyl-ethenyl, benzyl, halogen (e.g., chlorine, bromine and fluorine), hydroxyl, amino, substituted amino (e.g., dimethylamino, diethylamino, N-hydroxy-N-ethylamino, acetylamino),  $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2$ ,  $\text{CH}(\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2)(\text{OH})$ , or  $-\text{[CH}_2\text{C}(\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2)_2\text{]}_n\text{-H}$  where  $n = 1$  to 15,  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen, lower alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl), amino, benzyl, halogen (e.g., chlorine, bromine, and fluorine), hydroxyl,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2$ , or  $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2$ ;



wherein  $n$  is an integer of from 3 to 9;



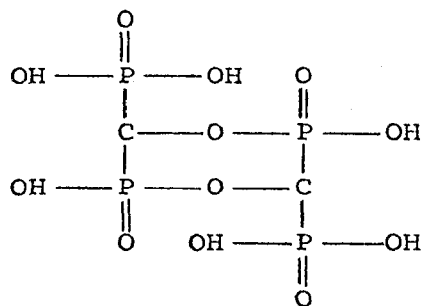
wherein each  $\text{R}_3$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl);



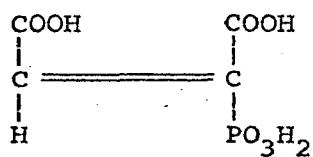
5 wherein  $n$  is an integer of from 2 to 4;



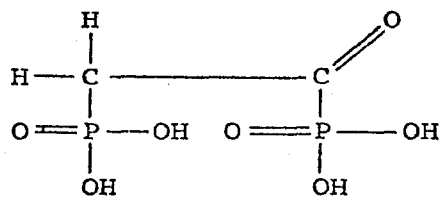
VI.



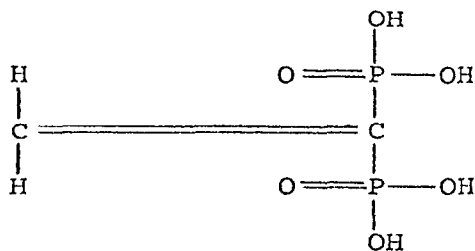
VII.



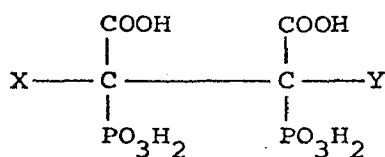
VIII.



IX.



X.



wherein X and Y are each hydrogen or hydroxy; and the non-toxic salts of each of the foregoing phosphonates

5 which in an essentially neutral aqueous solution will react with hereinafter enumerated reducing/complexing materials; i.e., stannous, ferrous, or chromous salts to form the corresponding stannous, ferrous or chromous phosphonate salt. Suitable reactive phosphonate salts

10 (hereinafter referred to as pharmaceutically acceptable salts) for use with the present invention include sodium, potassium, ammonium and low molecular weight substituted ammonium (e.g., mono-, di- and triethanol-

15 amine and quaternary ammonium) salts of the above phosphonates and mixtures thereof.

Operable polyphosphonates of the above formula (I) include propane-1,2,3-triphosphonic acid; butane-1,2,3,4-tetraphosphonic acid; hexane-1,2,3,4,5,6-hexaphosphonic acid; hexane-1-hydroxy-2,3,4,5,6-pentaphosphonic acid; hexane-1,6-dihydroxy-2,3,4,5-tetraphosphonic acid; pentane-1,2,3,4,5-pentaphosphonic acid; heptane-1,2,3,4,5,6,7-heptaphosphonic acid; octane-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8-octaphosphonic acid; nonane-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9-nonaphosphonic acid; decane-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10-decaphosphonic acid; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of these acids, e.g., sodium, potassium, ammonium, triethanolammonium, diethanolammonium, and monoethanolammonium salts.

Propane-1,2,3-triphosphonic acid and salts thereof can be prepared by a process disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,743,688 of D.A. Nicholson and D. Campbell, granted July 8, 1973.

Butane-1,2,3,4-tetraphosphonic acid and salts thereof can be prepared by a process disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 3,755,504 of D.A. Nicholson and D. Campbell, granted August 28, 1973.

The higher aliphatic vicinal polyphosphonates and salts thereof can be prepared by the process disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,584,035 granted June 8, 1971.

Among the operable polyphosphonates encompassed by the above formula (II) are ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid; methanediphosphonic acid; methanehydroxydiphosphonic acid; ethane-1,1,2-triphosphonic acid; propane-1,1,3,3-

tetraphosphonic acid; ethane-2-phenyl-1,1-diphosphonic acid; ethane-2-naphthyl-1,1-diphosphonic acid; methane-phenyldiphosphonic acid; ethane-1-amino-1,1-diphosphonic acid; methanedichlorodiphosphonic acid; nonane-5,5-  
 5 diphosphonic acid; n-pentane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; methanedifluorodiphosphonic acid; methanedibromodiphosphonic acid; propane-2,2-diphosphonic acid; ethane-2-carboxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid; propane-1-hydroxy-1,1,3-triphosphonic acid; ethane-2-hydroxy-1,1,2-  
 10 triphosphonic acid; ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1,2-triphosphonic acid; propane-1,3-diphenyl-2,2-diphosphonic acid; nonane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; hexadecane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; pent-4-ene-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid; octadec-9-ene-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid; 3-phenyl-1,1-diphosphono-prop-2-ene; octane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; dodecane-1,1-diphosphonic acid; phenylaminomethanediphosphonic acid; naphthylaminomethanediphosphonic acid; N,N-dimethylaminomethanediphosphonic acid; N-(2-dihydroxyethyl)-aminomethanediphosphonic acid; N-acetylamino-  
 15 aminomethanediphosphonic acid; dihydroxymethanediphosphonic acid; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of these acids, e.g., sodium, potassium, ammonium, triethanolammonium, diethanolammonium, and monoethanolammonium salts.

Ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid, an  
 25 especially preferred polyphosphonate, has the molecular formula  $\text{CH}_3\text{C}(\text{OH})(\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2)_2$ . (According to nomenclature by radicals, the acid might also be named 1-hydroxyethylidene diphosphonic acid.)

While any pharmaceutically acceptable salt of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid can be used in the practice of this invention, mixtures of the disodium and trisodium salts are most preferred. The other sodium, potassium, ammonium, and mono-, di-, and triethanolammonium salts and mixtures thereof are also suitable, provided caution is observed in regulating the total intake of cation species in the salt composition. These compounds can be prepared by any suitable method; however, an especially preferred method is disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,400,149 granted September 3, 1968.

Methanehydroxydiphosphonic acid and related compounds operable herein can be prepared, for example, by reaction of phosgene with an alkali metal dialkylphosphite. A complete description of these compounds and a method for preparing same is found in U.S. Patent 3,422,137 granted January 14, 1969.

Methanedihydroxydiphosphonic acid and salts useful herein and a method for preparing same are disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,497,313 granted February 24, 1970.

Methanediphosphonic acid and related compounds useful herein are described in detail in U.S. Patent 3,213,030, granted October 19, 1965. A preferred method of preparing such compounds is disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,251,907 granted May 17, 1966.

Ethane-1,1,2-triphosphonic acid and related compounds which can be used in the compositions of this invention, as well as a method for their preparation are fully described in U.S. Patent 3,551,339 granted December 29, 1970.

Propane-1,1,3,3-tetraphosphonic acid and related compounds useful herein, and a method for preparing same,

are fully disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,400,176 granted September 3, 1968. The higher methylene interrupted methylene diphosphate polymers can be prepared by the polymerization of ethylene-1,1-diphosphate.

5 Pentane-2,2-diphosphonic acid and related compounds can be prepared in accordance with the method described by G. M. Kosolopoff in J. Amer. Chem. Soc., 75, 1500 (1953).

Operable phosphonates of formula (III) above include the following:

- 10 Methanecyclobutylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
Methanecyclopentylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
Methanecyclohexylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
Methanecycloheptylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
Methanecyclooctylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
15 Methanecyclononylhydroxydiphosphonic acid  
Methanecyclodecylhydroxydiphosphonic acid.

Each of the sodium, potassium, ammonium, monoethanol-ammonium, diethanolammonium and triethanolammonium salts of the above-recited methanecycloalkylhydroxydiphosphonic acids as well as any other pharmaceutically acceptable salt of  
20 these acids, also selectively seek the skeleton.

The phosphonates of formula (III) can be prepared by methods fully described in U.S. Patent 3,584,125, granted June 8, 1971.

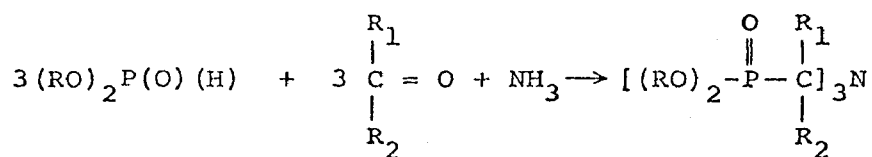
25

The preferred phosphonates of formula (IV) for the purpose of this invention are tris(phosphonomethyl)amine; tris(1-phosphonoethyl)amine; tris(2-phosphono-2-propyl)amine; and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

5 Tris(phosphonomethyl)amine is especially preferred. The following are exemplary of compounds which can also be used:

- (a) bis(phosphonomethyl)-1-phosphonoethyl amine;
  - (b) bis(phosphonomethyl)-2-phosphono-2-propyl amine;
  - 10 (c) bis(1-phosphonoethyl)phosphonomethyl amine;
  - (d) bis(2-phosphono-2-propyl)phosphonomethyl amine;
  - (e) tris(1-phosphono-1-pentyl)amine;
  - (f) bis(phosphonomethyl)2-phosphono-2-hexyl amine; and
  - (g) the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of acids.
- 15 (a) through (f), e.g., sodium, potassium, ammonium, triethanolammonium, diethanolammonium, and monoethanolammonium salts.

The tris(phosphonoalkyl)amines can be prepared, for example, by first preparing the corresponding ester in  
20 accordance with the general reaction:



wherein R is alkyl and R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are hydrogen or lower alkyl.

The free acids can be prepared by hydrolysis of  
 5 the ester using strong mineral acids such as hydrochloric acid. The salts are, of course, prepared by neutralizing the acid with the base of the desired cation. The preparation of tris(phosphonoalkyl)amines is fully disclosed by Irani, et al., in Canadian Patent 753,207,  
 10 issued February 21, 1967.

The phosphonates of formula (V) include the following: (1) 3,3,4,4,5,5-hexafluoro-1,2-diphosphonocyclopent-1-ene; (2) 3,3,4,4-tetrafluoro-1,2-diphosphonocyclobut-1-ene; and (3) 3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6-octafluoro-  
 15 1,2-diphosphonocyclohex-1-ene.

The perfluorodiphosphonocycloalkenes can be prepared, for example, by reacting trialkyl phosphites with 1,2-dichloroperfluorocycloalk-1-enes in accordance with the procedures fully described by Frank in J. Org. Chem., 31, #5, p. 1521.  
 20

The phosphonate of formula (VI) is referred to herein as cyclic tetraphosphonic acid. This compound



and its pharmaceutically acceptable salts can be prepared by any suitable method; however, an especially preferred method is disclosed by Oscar T. Quimby, U.S. Patent 3,387,024 granted June 4, 1968.

5 Operable phosphonates encompassed by the above formula (VII) are ethene-1,2-dicarboxy-1-phosphonic acid; and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of these acids, e.g., sodium, potassium, ammonium, triethanolammonium, diethanolammonium, and monoethanolammonium salts. While  
10 the above formula (VII) is representative of cis-isomers, the corresponding trans-isomers are also useful herein. Reference hereinafter to ethene-1,2-dicarboxy-1-phosphonic acid or salts thereof, unless otherwise specified, is intended as contemplating the cis- and trans-isomers and  
15 mixtures thereof.

Ethene-1,2-dicarboxy-1-phosphonic acid and related compounds useful herein can be prepared by reaction of an ester of acetylenedicarboxylic acid and a dialkyl phosphite followed by hydrolysis and saponification.  
20 This method is more fully described in U.S. Patent 3,584,124, granted June 8, 1971.

The sodium salt of formula (VIII) can be made by the rearrangement reaction of a 2-haloethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid with about 3 equivalents of sodium  
25 hydroxide as disclosed in U.S. Patent 3,641,126.

The phosphonate of formula (IX) can be made by the method of German Offenlegungsschrift 2,026,078.

Operable carboxyphosphonates of the above formula (X) include ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid;

ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-dihydroxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid;  
ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1-hydroxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid;  
and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of these acids,  
e.g., sodium, potassium, ammonium, triethanolammonium,  
5 diethanolammonium and monoethanolammonium salts.

Ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid, a preferred carboxyphosphonate herein, has the molecular formula  $\text{CH}(\text{COOH})(\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2)\text{CH}(\text{COOH})(\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2)$ . The most convenient crystallizable salts of this acid are obtained  
10 when three, four or five of the acid hydrogens are replaced by sodium.

While any pharmaceutically acceptable salt of ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid can be used in the practice of this invention, the tetrasodium  
15 dihydrogen salt, the trisodium trihydrogen salt, the disodium tetrahydrogen salt, the monosodium penta-hydrogen salt, and the mixtures thereof are useful. The other potassium, ammonium, and mono-, di-, and tri-ethanolammonium, etc., salts and mixtures thereof are  
20 also suitable, provided caution is observed in regulating the total intake of cation species in the salt composition.

Ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid and suitable salts thereof can be prepared in any convenient manner. For example, the reaction described by Pudovik  
25 in "Soviet Research on Organo-Phosphorus Compounds", 1949-1956, Part III, 547-85c. can be used to prepare the ester of ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid which in turn can, by ordinary hydrolysis reactions, be converted

to the free acid form. Neutralization by alkali compounds such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, carbonates and the like can be used to prepare a desired salt of the acid. A more detailed description of the preparation of these compounds is described in U.S. Patent 3,562,166 granted February 9, 1971.

Ethane-1,1-dicarboxy-1,2-dihydroxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid and related compounds useful herein can be prepared by reaction of an ester of ethane-1,2-dicarboxy-1,2-diphosphonic acid and an alkali metal hypohalite followed by hydrolysis and saponification. This method is more fully described in U.S. Patent 3,579,570 granted May 18, 1971.

Mixtures of any of the foregoing phosphonic acids and/or salts can be used in the practice of this invention.

In a highly preferred embodiment of this invention, mixtures of disodium- and trisodium-ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate salts wherein the mole ratio of the disodium salt to trisodium is from about 4:1 to 1:1, more preferably 3:1 to 1:1, are employed in the pertechnetate reducing agent along with a quinone stabilizer and a reducing metallic ion. These preferred phosphonate/reducing ion/quinone mixtures provide especially good scintiscans, with excellent stability and skeletal uptake and little soft tissue uptake.

The aminophosphonates, especially the aminopropane diphosphonates disclosed in U.S. Patents 4,054,598 and 3,962,432 are also useful in preparing bone scanning agents stabilized with quinones.

The following examples are illustrative of compositions made according to this invention. The quantity of each component listed is in milligrams.

EXAMPLE

	<u>COMPONENT</u>	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X
	Disodium-ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate	5.9		5.9	5.9	5.9				4	3
5	Trisodium-ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate		5.9							1.9	
	Disodium-methane-diphosphonate								5.9		
	Trisodium-methane-diphosphonate							5.9			2.9
	Dichloromethanediphosphonic acid						5.9				
10	Stannous chloride	0.16	0.16			0.16		0.16			0.16
	Ferrous sulfate			0.16			0.16		0.16		
	Chromous chloride				0.16					0.16	
	Sodium chloride	27		27		27		27		27	27
	Glucose		27		27		27				
15	Hydroquinone	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	5.0	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.2	5.0

Each of the compositions of Examples I through X, upon addition of about 5 ml. of a pertechnetate-99m solution from a commercial technetium source, and thorough shaking, yields a skeletal scanning agent suitable for intravenous injection into a human patient. The in-use stability of such skeletal scanning agents is more than three hours, which is ample under ordinary hospital conditions. Preferably, about 1 ml. of the skeletal scanning solution is used in an adult of about 50-100 kilograms body weight and is injected slowly, over a period of about 30 seconds. Administration is preferably done within about three hours of preparation. Kits can, of course, contain multiples or fractions of the above amounts to allow preparation of sufficient agent from a single vial to perform any desired number of scans.

The following example is illustrative of a pertechnetate solution having dissolved therein a quinone stabilizer.

#### EXAMPLE XI

A collecting vial containing 0.1 mg. of hydroquinone is placed at the elute orifice of a pertechnetate-99m generator. Saline elute is collected in the vial and completely dissolves the hydroquinone.

Approximately 5 ml. of the pertechnetate solution, with dissolved hydroquinone, is added to a pertechnetate reducing agent comprising 5.9 mg. of the sodium salt of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid and 0.16 mg. of stannous chloride. After thorough shaking, a stable bone scanning agent suitable for intravenous injection into a human patient is prepared.

The use of methanehydroxydiphosphonate (MHDP) as a highly preferred bone scanning agent which provides exceptionally sharp scintiphotos and excellent lesion detection is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,247,534 of Bevan, issued January 27, 1981, said patent being entitled RADIOGRAPHIC SCANNING AGENT. The following example illustrates the preparation of a freeze-dried product containing MHDP as the bone-seeking agent.

EXAMPLE XII

Methanehydroxydiphosphonate, mixture of di-, tri-sodium salts (2.0 mg), stannous chloride (0.16 mg.), and hydroquinone (0.50 mg.) are dissolved in 1 ml. of deoxygenated water at room temperature. The aqueous solution is filtered through a "Millipore"\* filter and freeze-dried on a commercial apparatus.

The freeze-dried powder prepared in the foregoing manner is admixed with about 5 ml. of a pertechnetate-99m solution from a commercial source. The freeze-dried powder dissolves readily and a stable skeletal scanning agent suitable for intravenous use is secured.

The foregoing examples have illustrated the use of quinones in the preparation of scanning agents using various phosphonate materials to target bone mineral. Inorganic phosphates are also useful in the manufacture of bone scanning agents and radiodiagnostic products containing inorganic phosphates can also be stabilized with the quinone.

U.S. Patent 4,016,249, of Adler et al., issued April 5, 1977, said patent being entitled "Bone Seeking Technetium 99M Complex", contains a succinct disclosure of the use of inorganic

\*Trademark

phosphates of various types in the manufacture of bone scanning agents. In particular, certain soluble pyrophosphate species having a molecular weight of less than about 300, said pyrophosphate containing no more than about 25%  
 5 branched-chain polyphosphate, are quite useful for bone scanning. As with the organophosphonates, the pyrophosphate is conveniently used by admixture with a reducing salt for pertechnetate, thereby providing a kit. In use, the kit is charged with an aqueous solution of pertechnetate, whereupon  
 10 the heptavalent technetium is reduced to a lower oxidation state, where it combines with the pyrophosphate. When injected into the patient the pyrophosphate targets bone mineral with the technetium radionuclide, in the manner of the organophosphonates. An example of such a product is as  
 15 follows.

EXAMPLE XIII

<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Amount (mg.)</u>
Hydroquinone	0.20
Stannous chloride	1.30
20 Sodium pyrophosphate*	40.0

\*As disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,016,249.

The composition of Example XIII is prepared by simple admixture of the listed ingredients and used in the manner disclosed above.

25 In an alternate mode, the composition of Example XIII is prepared by dissolving the ingredients in water (20 ml.), sterilizing by filtration and freeze-drying using standard equipment.

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Highly preferred, quinone-stabilized bone scanning agents are as follows.

## EXAMPLE XIV

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Milligrams/vial</u>
5	EHDP*	5.9
	SnCl <sub>2</sub>	0.16
	Hydroquinone	0.50
	NaCl	26.5
10	*Mixture of di- and tri-sodium salts of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid.	

The ingredients are dry mixed. Five mls. of eluate from a commercial pertechnetate source added to one vial of the composition of Example XIV provides sufficient solution for 5 bone scans.

15 The composition of Example XIV is modified by replacing the EHDP with an equal amount of 3-amino-1-hydroxypropane-1,1-diphosphonic acid and a stabilized bone imaging agent is secured.

A dry powder mix MHDP scanning agent is as follows:

20

## EXAMPLE XV

	<u>Ingredient</u>	<u>Milligrams/vial</u>
	MHDP*	2.0
	SnCl <sub>2</sub>	0.16
	Hydroquinone	0.50
25	NaCl	26.5
	*Mixture of sodium salts of methanehydroxydiphosphonic acid.	



The ingredients are dry mixed. Five mls. of eluate from a commercial pertechnetate source added to one vial of the composition of Example XV provides sufficient solution for 5 bone scans.

5

EXAMPLE XVI

Ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate, mixture of di-, and trisodium salts (5.9 mg.), stannous chloride (0.16 mg.), and hydroquinone (0.50 mg.) are dissolved in 1 ml. of deoxygenated water at room temperature. The aqueous solution is filtered  
10 through a millipore filter and freeze-dried on a commercial apparatus.

The freeze-dried powder prepared in the foregoing manner is admixed with about 5 ml. of a pertechnetate-<sup>99m</sup>Tc solution from a commercial source. The freeze-dried powder  
15 dissolves readily and a stable skeletal scanning agent suitable for intravenous use is secured.

As can be seen from the foregoing, quinone stabilizers provide excellent storage stability and in-use stability for <sup>99m</sup>Tc-based scanning agents. When an organ-specific carrier  
20 such as an organophosphonate or inorganic phosphate is used in such compositions in the manner disclosed, it is preferred that the weight ratio of quinone:carrier be in the range of from about 10:1 to about 1:30, preferably 1:1 to about 1:20, most preferably from about 1:5 to about 1:12.

25 As disclosed in the art, the weight ratio of reducing agent:carrier in such compositions is generally in the range 1:50 to about 1:20, although this ratio can vary with the type of organ-specific carrier being used. The quinone stabilizer does not appreciably alter these ratios.

30

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A stable composition, useful in the preparation of technetium-99m-based radiographic scanning agents, comprising: a pertechnetate reducing agent; and a stabilizing amount of a quinone stabilizer selected from hydroquinone and quinonoid species thereof.
2. A composition according to Claim 1, comprising a weight ratio of quinone stabilizer to reducing agent in the range of about 30:1 to about 1:30.
3. A composition according to Claim 2, wherein the ratio of stabilizer to reducing agent is in the range of from about 10:1 to about 1:1.
4. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of the soluble stannous, chromous, titanous and ferrous salts.
5. A composition according to Claim 4 wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of stannous chloride, chromous chloride and ferrous sulfate.
6. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the reducing agent is stannous chloride and the weight ratio of quinone:SnCl<sub>2</sub> is about 5:1 to about 1:1.
7. A composition according to Claim 1, additionally comprising an organ-specific carrier.

8. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein the organ-specific carrier is an organophosphonate.

9. A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the organophosphonate is selected from the group consisting of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid, methanediphosphonic acid, dichloromethanediphosphonic acid, methanehydroxy-  
5 diphosphonic acid, and the soluble salts and esters thereof.

10. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is stannous chloride, the organ-specific carrier is a sodium salt form of ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonic acid, and the quinone stabilizer is  
5 hydroquinone.

11. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is stannous chloride, the organ-specific carrier is a sodium salt form of methane-  
diphosphonic acid, and the quinone stabilizer is hydro-  
5 quinone.

12. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is stannous chloride, the organ-specific carrier is a sodium salt form of dichloro-  
methanediphosphonic acid, and the quinone stabilizer is  
5 hydroquinone.

13. A composition according to Claim 9 wherein the pertechnetate reducing agent is stannous chloride, the

organ-specific carrier is a sodium salt form of methane-  
hydroxydiphosphonic acid, and the quinone stabilizer is  
5 hydroquinone.

14. A composition according to Claim 8 wherein the  
organophosphonate is a 3-aminopropane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphos-  
phonate.

15. A composition according to Claim 7 wherein the  
organ-specific carrier is a water-soluble inorganic phos-  
phate.

16. A composition according to Claim 15 wherein the  
inorganic phosphate is a sodium pyrophosphate.

17. A composition useful in the preparation of  
technetium-99m-based radiographic scanning agents, com-  
prising: an oxidized pertechnetate solution having dissolved  
therein a stabilizing amount of a quinone stabilizer selected  
5 from hydroquinone or a quinonoid species thereof.

18. A composition according to Claim 17, comprising  
an oxidized pertechnetate solution having dissolved therein  
no more than about 0.1% by weight of a quinone stabilizer.

19. A composition according to Claim 18, comprising  
an oxidized pertechnetate solution having dissolved therein  
no more than about 0.1%, by weight, of hydroquinone or  
quinonoid species thereof.

20. A method of preparing a stabilized technetium-  
99m-based scanning agent, comprising codissolving a  
stabilizing amount of a quinone stabilizer selected from  
hydroquinone or a quinonoid species thereof with an aqueous  
5 solution of radioactive technetium in the +3, +4 or +5  
valence state.

21. A method according to Claim 20 wherein an organ-  
seeking carrier is included in the solution.



**SUBSTITUTE**

***REPLACEMENT***

**SECTION is not Present**

***Cette Section est Absente***