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(54) Title: OF ANTIMICROBIAL FORMULATIONS USING 7-OXA-2-THIA-1,5-DIAZABICY-PREPARATION CLO[3.3.1]NONANE-2,2-DIONE

(57) Abstract: Use of 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione ("cyclotaurolidine") for the preparation of antimicrobial formulations, in particular antimicrobial solutions for technical or medical purposes and of aqueous lock solutions for catheters and port systems for preventing infections and sepsis of patients.

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Preparation of antimicrobial formulations using 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione

The present invention relates to the field of antimicrobial (antiseptic or microbicidal) formulations for medical and other purposes, the formulations being in particular aqueous solutions which contain an active substance with antimicrobial and antiendotoxic activity as explained by an irreversible N-methylol group transfer to the microbial cell wall and endotoxins.

Substantially the compound taurolidine may be mentioned as the active substance whose activity is interpreted in terms of said methylol group transfer. Taurolidine is a substance which can be structurally derived from the aminosulfonic acid taurine. Taurolidine has the structural formula (I) and, in aqueous solution, is in equilibrium with taurultam (II) and methylol taurultam (III).

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The preparation of taurolidine was first described in the Swiss patent application CH 482713 A. Taurolidine

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is prepared by reacting taurinamide (2-aminoethanesulfonamide) with 1.5 equivalents of formaldehyde or its hydration product methylene glycol $CH_2(OH)_2$ formed in aqueous solution. The known process was considerably improved by an improved process for the preparation of taurinamide according to EP 0 863 133 B1.

formation of taurolidine from taurinamide formaldehyde can be described as a condensation process in which 2 equivalents of taurinamide and 3 equivalents of formaldehyde participate, which gives a ratio of taurinamide to formaldehyde of 1:1.5 for the overall compound taurolidine. The hydrolytic cleavage taurolidine according to the above equation results in the formation of the compounds methylol taurultam and which, considered individually, taurultam, may condensates regarded as of taurinamide with 2 1 equivalent, respectively, equivalents or of formaldehyde.

Taurolidine has long been commercially available in the form of aqueous solutions under the trade name Taurolin®, in particular as Taurolin 2% instillation solution having a content of 2.0 g of taurolidine and 5.0 g of polyvinylpyrrolidone per 100 ml of water, and as Taurolin® Ringer 0.5% surgical irrigation solution with 0.50 g taurolidine, 1.25 g of polyvinylpyrrolidone and a mixture of inorganic salts per 100 ml of water.

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The medical uses of Taurolin® solutions are based substantially on the antimicrobial and antiendotoxic activity of taurolidine. The 0.5% Taurolin solution serves in particular for the intraoperative irrigation of the abdominal cavity, while applications by instillation via drains are stated for 2% Taurolin solutions in particular in diffuse purulent peritonitis

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and perforative appendicitis. Other applications stated by the manufacturer are prophylaxis in the case of soft tissue and bone injuries and for thoracic empyema. In various patent applications and scientific publications, further potential uses of Taurolin®, for example in dental medicine and oral hygiene, in tumor diseases and in dermatology, are described, and the effect on a large number of physiological parameters by parenteral administration of solutions or taurolidine solutions was investigated.

It has furthermore already been known since 1989 that the known Taurolin® solutions can also be used for controlling so-called "catheter sepsis" (cf. Mughal, Br. J. Surg. (1989) 76(1), pages 15 to 21; cf. also J. of the Critically Ill (1990) 6(6), pages 228 to 231). "Catheter sepsis" is one of the terms for severe complications which may occur in persons in whom catheters are implanted for repeated supply medicaments or nutrient solutions or for hemodialysis purposes. As "catheters" may also be regarded the socalled port systems which are likewise permanently implanted and provide external access to central blood vessels of a patient. If, during the use of the permanently applied catheters or port systems, these catheters or port systems become populated pathogenic bacteria, for example through a formation of biofilms on the inner walls of the catheters or port systems or the associated pathways, such as, example, hollow needles, the patient may dangerous local and in particular systemic infections (sepsis).

It has therefore long been known in principle to fill 35 catheters and port systems with antimicrobial solutions which prevent population of the catheters and port systems by microorganisms and the formation of biofilms

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controllable only with difficulty with antibiotics or antiseptic agents, during those periods when, for example, no medicaments or nutrient solutions are supplied or no blood is taken.

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externally.

European Patent application EP 0 946 221 Al describes the use of a Taurolin® solution as a lock solution, it being intended that the lock solution be washed into the blood stream before resumption of operation of the catheter with a salt solution. Since the lock solution enters the patient's body in such a procedure, the lock solution must fulfill all preconditions which are set for medicaments to be administered parenterally.

15 While EP 0 946 221 A1 substantially describes the use of the customary 2% by weight Taurolin® solutions which polyvinylpyrrolidone in addition taurolidine, European Patent EP 1 089 738 B1 discloses a use of taurolidine for lock solutions in modified 20 form, in particular as a solution of taurolidine in a buffer system comprising trisodium citrate and citric The buffer system serves for optimizing the solubility of the taurolidine and its antibacterial activity, in addition the anticoagulation properties of 25 citrate being utilized for preventing blocking of the catheter exits by clots which can be formed from blood. Lock solutions of the type described in EP 1 089 738 B1 into the today as a rule no longer washed circulation but sucked out of the catheter or port 30 system before it is put into operation again. This has, inter alia, the advantage that the lock solutions do not enter the patient's body and are therefore not regarded as therapeutic agents, which have to meet strict registration requirements for therapeutic agents 35 but as disinfectants or antiseptic agents acting only WO 2008/011980 PCT/EP2007/006072 5

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Although, for example in comparison with solutions of antibiotics, the use of taurolidine in lock solutions, in particular in lock solutions with added citrate, leads to a decisive improvement with regard to the control of infections which are caused by microbial contamination of catheters and port systems, improvements are still possible in said area. Although solutions taurolidine are effective against extremely broad spectrum of bacteria (prokaryotic microorganisms), its efficacy against eukaryotic microorganisms (fungi; e.g. yeasts or molds) limited.

Owing to the limited solubility of taurolidine in aqueous media, the activity of taurolidine-based aqueous antimicrobial solutions cannot be arbitrarily increased by concentration increases. This observation relates not only to lock solutions but generally to taurolidine-based microbicidal (antimicrobial; antiseptic) aqueous solutions, also for other known or conceivable intended uses.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a novel preparation of formulations having antimicrobial activity which is based on a methylol group transfer species present in the formulation microorganisms, which makes it possible, in said context, to provide effective formulations whose efficacy with respect to microorganisms, in particular with respect to eukaryotic microorganisms, is increased in comparison with known taurolidine solutions, which simultaneously make it possible to modify the desired activity and, for example, to completely to the taurolidine solutions known to date, in particular taurolidine lock solutions, if higher activity is not required or is to be avoided in the specific case owing to undesired side effects.

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According to the present invention, this object is achieved by using not taurolidine but the compound 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione,

5 which is referred to in the further application simply as "cyclotaurolidine", for the preparation of the antimicrobial formulations.

The present invention therefore relates in general to the use of cyclotaurolidine for the preparation of 10 antimicrobial (microbicidal) or antiseptic formulations for any desired purposes. In addition to uses for medical purposes, in particular uses as aqueous lock solutions, these purposes also include uses for other 15 technical purposes, for example in agents for surface sterilization of body parts or objects which should have sterile surfaces, for example of contact lenses, implants, (e.g. stents) and other instruments which are used in such a way that they may cause infections. 20 Said use can also be formulated as a novel process for the preparation of solutions starting from the novel starting product cyclotaurolidine.

The formulations may be not only solutions but also gels and ointments in vehicles optimized for the respective intended use.

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The invention furthermore relates to the solutions themselves obtained on using cyclotaurolidine for the preparation of aqueous solution, in particular of the development as lock solutions for catheters and port systems and to the use of such solutions prepared from cyclotaurolidine as lock solutions in catheters and port systems.

The invention furthermore relates to a novel process which was developed by the inventors and permits the

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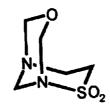
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preparation of cyclotaurolidine in a simple manner in high yields.

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The compound designated herein as cyclotaurolidine is known per se. In the publication by Alan R. Kennedy et al. "Two new compounds by reaction of taurolidine with methylene glycol", Acta Cryst. (1999). C55, 232-234, it is stated that this compound is obtained if taurolidine is reacted with an excess of methylene glycol (aqueous formaldehyde). Said compound has the structural formula (IV):



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Structurally, this compound may be regarded as taurultam whose two ring nitrogen atoms are linked by a dimethylene ether bridge with formation of a bicyclic structure. The compound may also be regarded as the product of a condensation reaction of taurinamide with 3 equivalents of methylene glycol or formaldehyde. 1 equivalent of methylene glycol forms the CH₂ group which is also present in taurultam. The oxygen-containing bridge is formed from two further taurultam-N-bonded methylene glycol units in a subsequent condensation reaction.

25 Said compounds were striking as a slightly soluble byproduct which crystallizes out in an undesired manner from taurolidine solutions under certain conditions. Since it was obtained by reaction of taurolidine, which is valuable as an active substance, with further 30 methylene glycol or formaldehyde, its targeted

preparation was not likely to have appeared attractive to date especially since the compound is more lipophilic than taurolidine. Furthermore, there were no known data at all on the antimicrobial activity of the compound.

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However, investigations by the inventors of the present application into the solubility and antimicrobial activity of cyclotaurolidine have now led to surprising result that, in spite of the higher lipophilicity of the compound, aqueous solutions cyclotaurolidine not only are equivalent customary more highly concentrated taurolidine solutions with regard to their antimicrobial activity against prokaryotic microorganisms (bacteria), but that the aqueous solutions of cyclotaurolidine are also substantially more effective against problematic eukaryotic microorganisms (yeasts, molds) than more highly concentrated aqueous solutions which were prepared by dissolving taurolidine.

In aqueous solutions of cyclotaurolidine, an active substance is present, optionally also in the form of its hydrolytically formed equilibrium products, which the molar ratio of structural units which are derived from taurinamide to structural units which are derived from methylene glycol or formaldehyde (methylene groups between ring nitrogen atoms between nitrogen and oxygen atoms) is 1:3, whereas the corresponding ratio in solutions which were prepared This finding can serve as using taurolidine is 1:1.5. an explanation as to why solutions of cyclotaurolidine which are only half as concentrated as or even less concentrated than taurolidine solutions have at least comparable antimicrobial activities.

Compared with solutions of taurolidine, antimicrobial

solutions prepared by dissolving agueous therefore have various cyclotaurolidine advantages which are important, for example, for applications in which higher efficacy against eukaryotic microorganisms (yeasts, molds) is required than that of the customary taurolidine solutions. Such a potential application comprises, for example, a fungicidal solution medical or hygiene purposes, for example for the treatment of the skin surface. Applications preservatives for technical, cosmetic and food purposes also appear possible.

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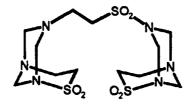
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In cases where increased activity of the aqueous using cyclotaurolidine solutions prepared is not required or the higher reactivity gives rise reservations in the respective use, the activity of the aqueous cyclotaurolidine solutions can be changed by adding taurinamide or taurinamide hydrochloride in a tailor-made manner. By addition of taurinamide, the ratio of methylene groups from methylene glycol/formaldehyde to taurinamide can be continuously a result, shifted. As modification antimicrobial activity of the aqueous solutions also the solubility of the proportions of the active substance or of its equilibrium hydrolysis products which are present in the aqueous solution is possible. If taurinamide or taurinamide hydrochloride is added to the cyclotaurolidine solution in an amount such that the ratio of methylene groups which are derived from methylene glycol to taurinamide is reduced from the ratio 3:1, as present in cyclotaurolidine, to 1.5:1, as present in taurolidine solutions (addition 1 taurinamide equivalent of per equivalent of cyclotaurolidine), the antimicrobial activity of the solution changes so that solutions are obtained which have the same antimicrobial activity as taurolidine solutions. Ιf 1 equivalent of taurinamide

hydrochloride is used for adjusting the activity, the solutions obtained differ from those which were obtained by dissolving taurolidine through the presence of chloride.

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At an appropriate ratio of taurinamide to methylene glycol of 2:1, the stoichiometry of the constituents of the mixture corresponds to the stoichiometry of the compound (V)



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which is likewise described in the abovementioned publication in Acta Cryst. (1999), C55, 232-234. to be assumed that aqueous solutions which are formed by dissolving said compound (V) likewise antimicrobial activity which approximately reflects the number of methylene bridges between ring nitrogen atoms (V). Aqueous solutions which are prepared by dissolving said compound (V) may be considered as solutions of cyclotaurolidine aqueous which were modified appropriately by taurinamide addition and are therefore likewise within the scope of the present invention.

Below, the present invention is explained in more detail with reference to examples which firstly describe a novel and advantageous process for the preparation of cyclotaurolidine and secondly give results which are obtained in the testing of the antimicrobial activity of aqueous solutions which were prepared from cyclotaurolidine.

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Examples:

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1. Preparation of 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione ("cyclotaurolidine") starting from taurinamide hydrochloride.

Taurinamide hydrochloride (250.0 g, 1.55 mol; prepared according to EP 863 133 B1) was added to a solution of sodium hydroxide (60.0 g, 1.50 mol) in water (700 ml). A clear colorless solution was obtained, which was added dropwise within a period of 5 min to a stirred aqueous solution of formaldehyde (35%, 1000 ml). During the addition, the temperature of the clear colorless mixture increased from room temperature to On heating the solution obtained to 62°C, the solution became turbid. It was stirred for a further 30 min at a temperature of about 45-47°C and then cooled to 10°C and stirred at this temperature for a further 20 min. The result was а colorless precipitate, which was separated from the aqueous phase with suction and which was washed with water and then ethanol and then dried. The yield was 224.8 g and the melting point of the crystalline product was 148.5°C.

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Analysis:

Found: C 33.79, H 5.593, N 15.68, S 18.11 Calculated (for $C_5H_{10}N_2O_3S$ - molar mass 178.21 g): C 33.69, H 5.65, N 15,71, S 17.99.

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IR: v (cm⁻¹) = 2872, 1384, 1329, 1269, 1225, 1185, 1138, 1064, 1014, 995, 973, 947, 874, 791, 743, 663, 615.

 13 C NMR (CHCl₃): δ (ppm) = 48.8, 51.5, 69.0, 79.2, 84.0.

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The product is an odorless, crystalline powder which can be recrystallized from, for example, ethanol and

purified and which was stable in the air at customary temperatures, can be easily handled and not only has the abovementioned solubility in water but is also soluble in various organic solvents. In contrast to taurolidine, cyclotaurolidine can therefore also be processed to give formulations in organic vehicles, for example in many customary organic vehicle materials for pharmaceutical and cosmetic purposes. This permits, for example, advantageous use in ointments and gels and on plastic surfaces (in the surface layers of stents), for example in agents for disinfecting the skin surface or as a fungicide, for example for the feet.

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Preparation of cyclotaurolidine starting from
 taurolidine

The reaction of taurolidine with an excess of methylene glycol (aqueous formaldehyde), mentioned in Acta Cryst. (1999), C55, 232-234, was carried out for control 20 purposes. For this purpose, a total of 20 g taurolidine were added in 10 portions to a stirred solution of formaldehyde (100 ml, 35%, EuAB 5.0) After the addition of the first room temperature. three portions, the mixture was stirred until it became 25 clear. Thereafter, the mixture was gradually heated to 55°C, and the remainder of the taurolidine was added (in 7 portions). The colorless solution obtained was stirred for 10 min, and the temperature was then slowly reduced to 5°C by cooling. The solution became turbid 30 After the solution had been stirred for 30 at 30°C. min at 5 °C, the precipitate formed was filtered off with suction and washed with cold water. The yield of the moist crude material was 21 g. Drying and recrystallization from ethanol gave colorless crystals, 35 which were isolated by filtration with suction.

Yield: 17 g; $R_r = 0.65$ (CHCl₃/MeOH 9.1, silica gel);

melting point 148-149°C. The elemental analysis and the IR and ¹³C-NMR data confirmed the identity of the product obtained starting from taurolidine with the product according to example 1.

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3. Investigation of the antimicrobial activity of aqueous cyclotaurolidine solutions

Exploratory experiments for dissolving cyclotaurolidine in water showed that solubility of cyclotaurolidine in 100 ml of water at room temperature was not more than about 1.3 g.

For the test for antimicrobial activity, aqueous solutions containing 0.85 g of cyclotaurolidine in 100 ml of water were used.

With regard to a possible use as lock solution, a solution was prepared, for testing for antimicrobial activity, by dissolving 0.85 g of cyclotaurolidine and 4.8 g of monosodium citrate in water (100 ml) with stirring, a clear colorless solution being obtained. After the pH of the solution had been adjusted to 6.3, the solution was filtered and filled into ampoules.

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The bactericidal and fungicidal activity of the solution was tested by a recognized test laboratory according to DIN EN 1040 and DIN EN 1275 (membrane filtration) against the test organisms S. aureus (ATCC 6538), P. aeruginosa (ATCC 15442), S. epidermis (ATCC 12288), C. albicans (ATCC 10231) and A. niger (ATCC 16404). The microbial count reductions observed for an action time of the test solution of 60 min and of 24 h at a test temperature of 20° ± 1°C were determined.

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The results are given in log steps of the microbial count reduction, minimum reductions of \geq 5.0 log steps

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being required with respect to the test microorganisms S. aureus, P. aeruginosa and S. epidermis and log steps of \geq 4.0 for C. albicans and A. niger, based on DIN EN 1040 and DIN EN 1275.

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After 60 min, the following microbial count reductions (given in log steps) were obtained: S. aureus 2.04, P. aeruginosa > 5.27, S. epidermis 1.22, C. albicans > 4.26, A. niger > 4.08.

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After an action time of 24 h, the corresponding values were > 5.25 for S. aureus, > 5.27 for P. aeruginosa, > 5.29 for S. epidermis, > 4.26 for C. albicans and > 4.08 for A. niger.

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A comparative solution of the prior art in the form of an aqueous solution containing 2% by weight of taurolidine and a corresponding amount of citrate and having a pH of 6.3 gave the following corresponding results:

60 min: S. aureus 1.33, P. aeruginosa > 5.27, S. epidermis > 0.99, C. albicans 0, A. niger 1.18.

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24 h: ≥ 5.25 , ≥ 5.27 , ≥ 5.29 , 3.70, ≥ 4.08 .

A comparison of the results shows that in spite of a which substantially below the concentration is customary taurolidine solutions, the solution prepared using cyclotaurolidine gave better microbial reductions under all test conditions. Particularly striking is the considerably higher activity with respect to the problematic microorganisms C. albicans and A. niger, for which the required values are reached after only 60 min, whereas the known comparative solution reaches the required values for these

eukaryotic microorganisms only after 24 h in the case of A. niger.

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Preliminary comparative ¹³C-NMR investigations solutions in d₆-DMSO of cyclotaurolidine on the one hand and of taurolidine on the other have shown that the hydrolytic stability of cyclotaurolidine, upon addition of D,O to said solutions, is considerably higher than that of taurolidine which is hydrolized in the presence of D,O almost instantaneously. This increased hydrolytic stability makes cyclotaurolidine a promising candidate to be tested for numerous medical applications other than as an antimicrobial and antiendotoxic agent. Known applications in which taurolidine has shown to effective include, for example, the prevention of tissue adhesions, and the utilisation of antineoplastic effects against certain tumor cells (see, for example, Clin Pharmacol 2007; 46(6):513-524 and the references cited therein, especially references 14 to 26). In view of the increased hydrolytic stability and lipophilicity of cyclotaurolidine higher concentration of the pharmacologically active species can be expected in the target tissue or organ.

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Patent claims

- 5 1. The use of 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione ("cyclotaurolidine") for the preparation of antimicrobial formulations.
- 10 2. The use as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of aqueous antimicrobial solutions for technical or medical purposes.
- 3. The use as claimed in claim 1 or 2 for the preparation of lock solutions for catheters and port systems for preventing infections and sepsis of patients which are caused by microbially contaminated catheters or port systems.
- 20 4. The use as claimed in claim 3, in which an aqueous solution of cyclotaurolidine having cyclotaurolidine concentration of from 0.5% weight to the saturation concentration at room temperature is prepared, which solution 25 contains a dissolved alkali metal citrate and/or citric acid.
- 5. An aqueous lock solution for catheters and port systems in the form of an aqueous solution which was prepared by dissolving cyclotaurolidine and monosodium citrate in water and has a pH in the range of from 4.5 to 7.5, preferably from 5.5 to 7.5.
- 35 6. The aqueous lock solution as claimed in claim 5, which also contains one or more further constituents which are selected from taurinamide,

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hydrochloride, with taurinamide one or more substances having antibiotic activity, and physiologically tolerated polyol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, buffer substances and/or heparin.

- 7. The use of an aqueous lock solution as claimed in claim 5 or 6 for filling catheters or port systems which are intended for hemodialysis, for 10 supply of medicaments in oncology and emergency medicine or for the parenteral nutrition patients, the catheters or port systems being filled with the lock solution for the time during which the catheters or port systems are not used 15 medically.
- 8. A process for the preparation of 7-oxa-2-thia-1,5diazabicyclo[3.3.1]nonane-2,2-dione ("cyclotaurolidine"), wherein a solution of 20 aminoethanesulfonylamide (taurinamide) is added to an aqueous solution of formaldehyde which contains formaldehyde least 3 in at times stoichiometric amount, based on the amount of taurinamide, and, after the end of the reaction, 25 the reaction solution is cooled and the solid reaction product obtained is filtered off from the reaction solution and, if appropriate, purified by recrystallization.
- 30 9. The process as claimed in claim 8, wherein an aqueous solution of taurinamide which contains taurinamide in a concentration of more than 10% by weight, preferably about 20% by weight or is added dropwise to an excess of an approximately 35 solution of formaldehyde 35% in water, reaction mixture obtained is heated to complete the reaction and then cooled and the resulting

precipitate is collected.

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10. The process as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein after the end of the taurinamide addition, the reaction mixture is heated to a temperature of 55°C or higher, in particular 60°C or higher, stirred in a heated state of from 10 min to 45 min and then cooled to a temperature of less than 15°C, in particular about 10°C, and the resulting precipitate is collected.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No

PCT/EP2007/006072 CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER NV. A61K31/549 A61P3 INV. A61P31/00 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) 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, EMBASE, CHEM ABS Data, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α WO 00/01391 A (BIOLINK CORP [US]; SODEMANN 1 - 10KLAUS [DE]) 13 January 2000 (2000-01-13) cited in the application the whole document Α JUREWITSCH B ET AL: "Taurolidine lock: 1 - 10The key to prevention of recurrent catheter-related bloodstream infections" CLINICAL NUTRITION, CHURCHILL LIVINGSTONE, LONDON, GB, vol. 24, no. 3, June 2005 (2005-06), pages 462-465, XP004893209 ISSN: 0261-5614 the whole document X 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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention *E* earlier document but published on or after the international "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 filing 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) "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 docudocument referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 4 September 2007 28/09/2007 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

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No.							
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