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# United States Patent [19]

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Alliger

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[54] **METHOD OF TREATING SMALL MOUTH ULCERS**

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### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[\*] Notice: The term of this patent shall not extend beyond the expiration date of Pat. No. 5,389,679.

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[21] Appl. No.: **626,134**

### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[22] Filed: **Apr. 5, 1996**

### Related U.S. Application Data

[60] Division of Ser. No. 277,349, Jul. 19, 1994, Pat. No. 5,516,799, which is a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 823,243, Jan. 21, 1992, abandoned.

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[51] Int. Cl.<sup>6</sup> ..... **A01N 37/02; A61K 31/19; A61K 31/045**

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[52] U.S. Cl. .... **514/557; 514/738; 514/925; 514/928**

### [57] ABSTRACT

[58] Field of Search ..... **514/557, 738, 514/925, 928**

The present invention relates to the surprising and unexpected discovery that a simple alpha hydroxy organic acid, for example, lactic acid, glycolic acid or any of their pharmaceutically compatible salts, may be used in a therapy for treating aphthous ulcers, including canker sores in humans. The therapeutic method according to the present invention comprises exposing tissue suffering from an outbreak of aphthous ulcers to an effective amount of an alpha hydroxy organic acid.

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**9 Claims, No Drawings**