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(54) **DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED
MICRORNAS AS BIOMARKERS FOR THE
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF
SJÖGREN'S SYNDROME**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The identification of differentially expressed microRNAs in
patients with Sjögren's syndrome is disclosed herein. Pro-
vided is a method of diagnosing a subject as having Sjögren's
syndrome by measuring the level of at least one differentially
expressed miR gene product identified herein. An alteration
in the level of the at least one miR gene product in the
biological sample of the subject relative to a control indicates
the subject has Sjögren's syndrome. Also provided is a
method of treating a patient with Sjögren's syndrome by
administering to the patient a therapeutically effective
amount of an agent that inhibits expression of a miR gene
product that is up-regulated in the patient with Sjögren's
syndrome relative to a control, or by administering to the
patient a therapeutically effective amount of an isolated miR
gene product that is down-regulated in the patient with
Sjögren's syndrome relative to a control. A method of restor-
ing salivary flow in a patient with Sjögren's syndrome is also
provided.

12 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets