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United States Latent [19]

Chari et al.

[54] CYTOTOXIC AGENTS COMPRISING MAYTANSINOIDS AND THEIR THERAPEUTIC USE

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- [73] Assignee: ImmunoGen Inc., Cambridge, Mass.
- [21] Appl. No.: 911,380
- [22] Filed: Jul. 13, 1992

Related U.S. Application Data

- [63] Continuation of Ser. No. 426,247, Oct. 25, 1989, abandoned.
- [51] Int. Cl.⁵ A61K 39/00; A61K 31/535; A61K 49/00; A01N 57/00
- [58] Field of Search 424/85.91; 514/229.5; 540/462; 530/390

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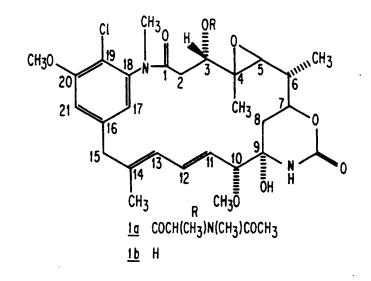
[57] ABSTRACT

A cytotoxic agent comprising one or more maytansinoids linked to a cell binding agent. A therapeutic agent for killing selected cell populations comprising: (a) a cytotoxic amount of one or more maytansinoids linked to a cell binding agent, and (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient. A method for killing selected cell populations comprising contacting a cell population or tissue suspected of containing cells from said selected cell population with a cytotoxic amount of a cytotoxic agent comprising one or more maytansinoids linked to a cell binding agent. An Nmethyl-alanine-containing ester of maytansinol or an analogue of maytansinol, said N-methyl-alanine-containing ester comprising a linking group capable of linking an N-methyl-alanine-containing maytansinoid ester to a chemical moiety. N-methyl-cysteine-containing ester of maytansinol or an analogue of maytansinol.

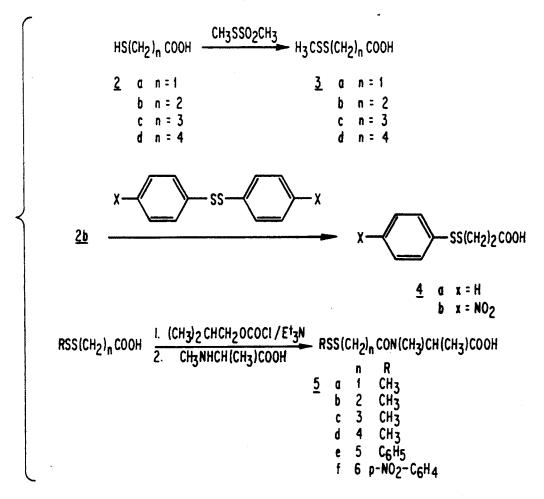
18 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

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FIG. 1 PRIOR ART

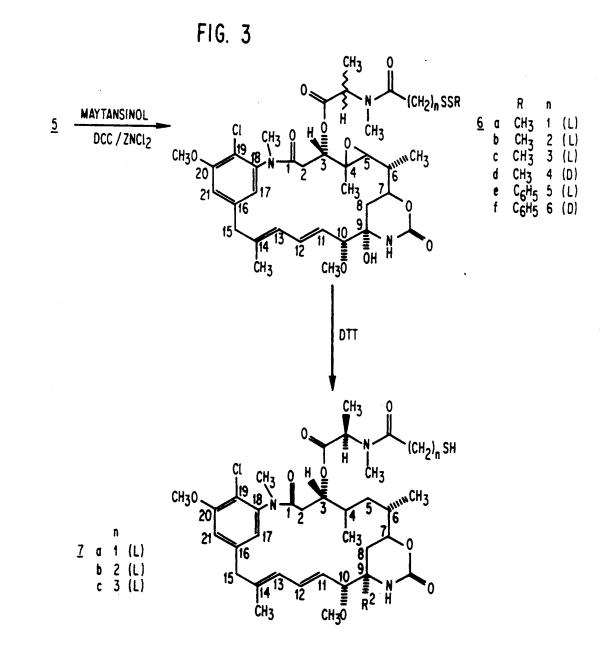






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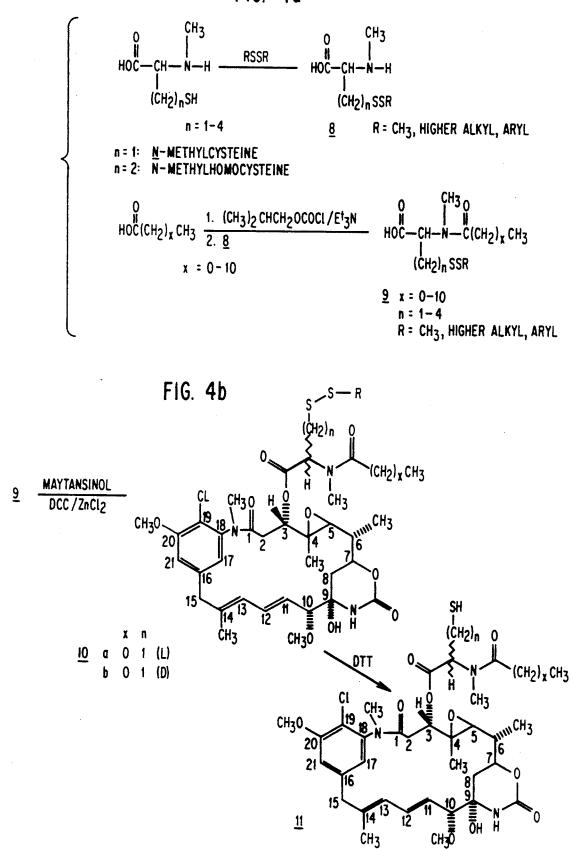
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Α

FIG. 4a



Α

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