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Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

11 Publication number:

0 347 243
A1

12

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: 89306121.8

51 Int. Cl.4: A 61 K 31/557

A 61 K 31/34, A 61 K 31/40,

A 61 K 49/00

22 Date of filing: 16.06.89

30 Priority: 17.06.88 GB 8814438
14.10.88 GB 8824187

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43 Date of publication of application:
20.12.89 Bulletin 89/51

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64 Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH DE ES FR GB GR IT LI LU NL SE

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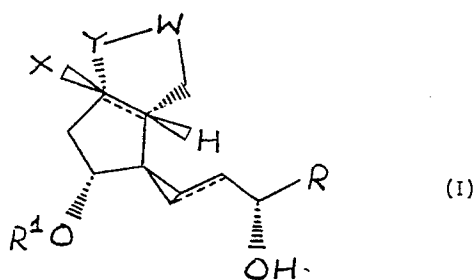
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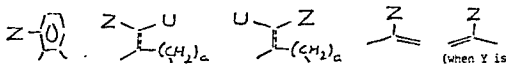
The title of the invention has been amended (Guidelines for Examination in the EPO, A-III, 7.3).

54 Prostaglandin analogues for use in medicine.

57 The present invention is concerned with the use of a compound of formula (I)



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where a is 0 or 1, U is hydrogen or halogen and Z is -V(CH₂)_b-CO₂H where b is an integer of from 1 to 3 and V is oxygen or methylene;

X is hydrogen, methyl, halogen, cyano, or -C≡CH;

Y is oxygen, methylene, -N=, or -N(Ar)- where Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group;

R is -(CH₂)₅R² where R² is hydrogen or methyl, or R is cyclohexyl, or R is -CH(CH₃)CH₂C≡CCH₃;

R₁ is hydrogen or methyl; and the dotted lines represent independently optional double bonds;

and physiologically acceptable salts and acid derivatives thereof,

in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or treatment of pulmonary hypertension and in the manufacture of a diagnostic aid for identifying PPH (primary pulmonary hypertension) patients having active pulmonary vasoconstriction.

Medicaments and diagnostic aids obtained by the use of the invention which may be administered when primary or secondary pulmonary hypertension is indicated are also within the scope of the invention.

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Description

Compounds for use in medicine

5 The present invention is concerned with prostaglandins for use in the prophylaxis, treatment, or diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension. Their use in the manufacture of medicaments for the prophylaxis or treatment of pulmonary hypertension and in the manufacture of diagnostic aids for identifying PPH patients having active pulmonary vasoconstriction and the medicaments and diagnostic aids obtained thereby are within the scope of the invention.

10 All blood is driven through the lungs via the pulmonary circulation in order, among other things, to replenish the oxygen which it dispenses in its passage around the rest of the body via the systemic circulation. The flow through both circulations is in normal circumstances equal, but the resistance offered to it in the pulmonary circulation is generally much less than that of the systemic circulation. When the resistance to pulmonary blood flow increases, the pressure in the circulation is greater for any particular flow. This is referred to as pulmonary hypertension. Generally, pulmonary hypertension is defined through observations of pressures above the normal range pertaining in the majority of people residing at the same altitude and engaged in similar activities.

15 Most often pulmonary hypertension is a manifestation of an obvious or explicable increase in resistance, such as obstruction to blood flow by pulmonary emboli, malfunction of the heart's valves or muscle in handling blood after its passage through the lungs, diminution in pulmonary vessel calibre as a reflex response to hypoventilation and low oxygenation, or a mismatch of vascular capacity and essential blood flow, such as shunting of blood in congenital abnormalities or surgical removal of lung tissue. Such pulmonary hypertension is referred to as secondary hypertension.

20 There remain some cases of pulmonary hypertension where the cause of the increased resistance is as yet inexplicable. These are described as cases of primary pulmonary hypertension (PPH) and are diagnosed by and after exclusion of the causes of secondary pulmonary hypertension. Despite the possibility of a varied aetiology, cases of primary pulmonary hypertension tend to comprise a recognisable entity. Approximately 25 65% are female and young adults are most commonly afflicted, though it has occurred in children and patients over 50. Life expectancy from the time of diagnosis is short, about 3 to 5 years, though occasional reports of spontaneous remission and longer survival are to be expected given the nature of the diagnostic process. Generally, however, progress is inexorable via syncope and right heart failure and death is quite often sudden. 30 Until now, no successful treatment was known.

U.S. Patent 4,306,075 describes novel benzindene prostaglandins which produce various pharmacological responses, such as inhibition of platelet aggregation, reduction of gastric secretion and bronchodilation. It is indicated that these compounds have useful application as anti-thrombotic agents, anti-ulcer agents and anti-asthma agents. Non-benzindene prostaglandins having similar properties have also been described 35 (Progress in Medicinal Chemistry, 21, 237 (1984); Circulation, 72, 1219 (1985)). We are not aware of any disclosure to date that benzindene or non-benzindene prostaglandins other than prostacyclin and PGE₁ may be used in the prophylaxis, treatment, or diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension.

We have now identified a class of prostaglandins comprising known benzindenes and non-benzindenes which have unexpectedly been found suitable for use in the prophylaxis, treatment and diagnosis of pulmonary hypertension. The compounds of the invention may also be used in the prophylaxis and treatment of Raynaud's disease.

The term "pulmonary hypertension" is used herein to include both primary and secondary pulmonary hypertension as ordinarily understood by clinicians (*vide supra*).

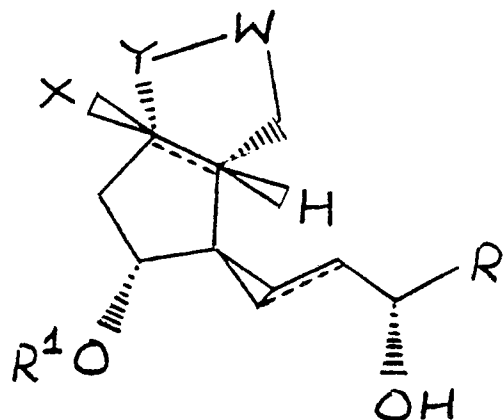
45 PPH patients having active pulmonary vasoconstriction are considered suitable candidates for long-term oral vasodilator therapy (R J Lambert *et al*, Chest 89, 459S (1986)). The ability of the compounds of the invention to reduce pulmonary vascular resistance in such patients provides a useful diagnostic aid for identifying suitable candidates for long-term vasodilator therapy.

The present invention, therefore, lies in the use of a compound of formula (I)

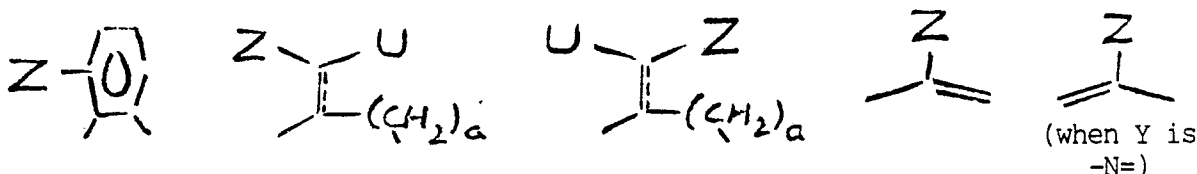
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-W- is selected from



where a is 0 or 1, U is hydrogen or halogen and Z is $-V(CH_2)_bCO_2H$ where b is an integer of from 1 to 3 and V is oxygen or methylene;

X is hydrogen, methyl, halogen, cyano, or $-C\equiv CH$;

Y is oxygen, methylene, $-N=$, or $-N(Ar)-$ where Ar is an optionally substituted phenyl group;

R is $-(CH_2)_5R^2$ where R^2 is hydrogen or methyl, or R is cyclohexyl, or R is $-CH(CH_3)CH_2C\equiv CCH_3$;

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl; and

the dotted lines represent independently optional double bonds;

and physiologically acceptable salts and acid derivatives thereof,

in the manufacture of a medicament for the prophylaxis or treatment of pulmonary hypertension.

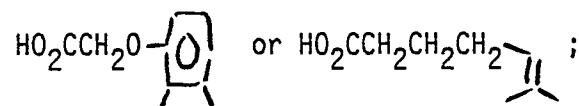
The term "acid derivative" is used herein to described C_{1-4} alkyl esters and amides, including amides wherein the nitrogen is optionally substituted by one or two C_{1-4} alkyl groups.

The invention also includes the use of bioprecursors or "pro-drugs" of the above-defined compounds, that is, compounds which are converted *in vivo* to compounds of formula (I) or physiologically active derivatives thereof.

A further aspect of the present invention provides for the use of a compound of formula (I), or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a diagnostic aid for identifying PPH patients having active pulmonary vasoconstriction. Medicaments and diagnostic acids obtained by the use of the invention which may be administered when primary or secondary pulmonary hypertension is indicated are also within the scope of the invention.

Preferred compounds of formula (I) having particularly desirable pulmonary anti-hypertensive properties include those wherein

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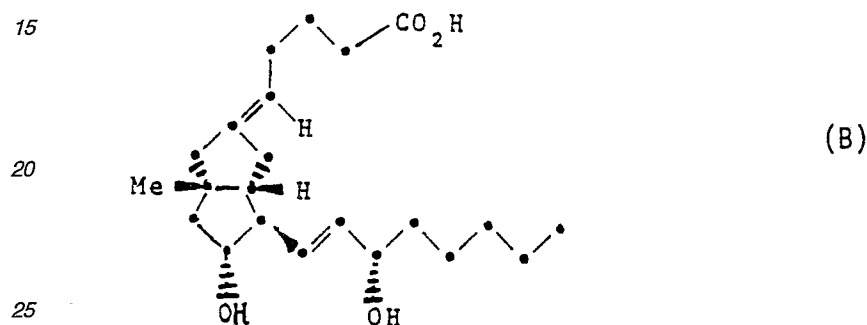
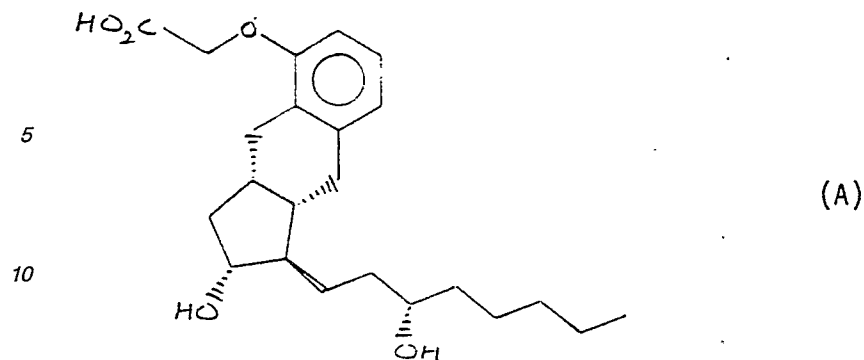
Y is methylene;

R is $-(CH_2)_5R^2$ where R^2 is hydrogen; and

R^1 is hydrogen;

and physiologically acceptable salts and acid derivatives thereof.

Particularly preferred compounds of formula (I) having exceptional pulmonary anti-hypertensive properties are 9-deoxy-2',9-methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-13,14-dihydroprostaglandin F_1 (A) and (5Z,9S)-9-methyl-6a-carbaprostaglandin I_2 (B) which have the following structures:



and physiologically acceptable salts and acid derivatives of both thereof.

Other compounds of the invention which show pulmonary anti-hypertensive activity include :

- 9-Deoxy-2',9-methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)prostaglandin F₁
- 30 9-Deoxy-2'9-methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-15-cyclohexylprostaglandin F₁
- 9-Deoxy-2',9-methano-3-oxa-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)-20-methylprostaglandin F₁
- Carbacyclin (6a-carba-PGI₂)
- 5,6-Dihydroprostacyclin
- 9-Deoxy-5R,9α-epoxyprostaglandin F_{1α}
- 35 9-Deoxy-9α,6-nitriloprostaglandin F₁
- (6R)-5-Oxa-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₁
- (5E)-5-Fluoro-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₂
- 9-Deoxy-5,9-methano-4,5-didehydroprostaglandin F_{1α}
- (5Z,9R)-9-Chloro-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₂
- 40 (5Z,9R)-9-Cyano-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₂
- (15S,16RS)-9-Deoxy-2'9α-methano-16-methyl-3-oxa-18,18,19,19-tetrahydro-4,5,6-trinor-3,7-(1',3'-interphenylene)prostaglandin F₁
- (5Z,9R)-9-Ethynyl-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₂
- (5Z,9R,16RS)-9-Ethynyl-16-methyl-18,18,19,19-tetrahydro-6a-carbaprostaglandin I₂
- 45 (11ξ)-6a-(3-Methylthiophenyl)-6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-6a-azaprostaglandin I₁
- methyl ester 11-methyl ether

The present invention extends to non-physiologically acceptable salts of the compounds of formula (I) which may be used in the preparation of the pharmacologically-active compounds of the invention. The physiologically acceptable salts of compounds of formula (I) include salts derived from organic and inorganic acids as well as from bases. Suitable salts derived from acids include, for example, the acetate, adipate, alginate, aspartate, benzoate, benzenesulphonate, bisulphate, butyrate, citrate, camphorate, camphorsulphonate, cyclopentanepropionate, digluconate, dodecylsulphate, ethanesulphonate, fumarate, glucoheptanoate, glycerophosphate, hemisulphate, heptanoate, hexanoate, hydrochloride, hydrobromide, hydroiodide, 2-hydroxyethanesulphonate, lactate, maleate, methanesulphonate, 2-naphthalenesulphonate, nicotinate, oxalate, palmoate, pectinate, persulphate, 3-phenylpropionate, picrate, pivalate, propionate, succinate, tartrate, thiocyanate, tosylate, and undecanoate.

Base salts include ammonium salts, alkali metal salts such as those of sodium and potassium, alkaline earth metal salts such as those of calcium and magnesium, salts with organic bases such as dicyclohexylamine and N-methyl-D-glucamine, and salts with amino acids such as arginine and lysine.

60 Quaternary ammonium salts can be formed, for example, by reaction with lower alkyl halides, such as methyl, ethyl, propyl, and butyl chlorides, bromides and iodides, with dialkyl sulphates, with long chain halides, such as decyl, lauryl, myristyl, and stearyl chlorides, bromides, and iodides, and with aralkyl halides, such as benzyl and phenethyl bromides.

65 The amount of a compound of formula (I), or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, which is required in a medication or diagnostic aid according to the invention to achieve the desired effect will

depend on a number of factors, in particular the specific application, the nature of the particular compound used, the mode of administration, and the condition of the patient. In general, a daily dose for the prophylaxis or treatment of pulmonary hypertension is expected to lie in the range 25 µg to 250 mg, typically from 0.5 µg to 2.5 mg, per day per kilogram bodyweight. For example, an intravenous dose may be in the range 0.5 µg to 1.5 mg/kg/day, which may conveniently be administered as an infusion of from 0.5 ng to 1.0 µg per kilogram per minute. Infusion fluids suitable for this purpose may contain, for example, from 10 ng to 10 µg per millilitre. Ampoules for injection may contain, for example, from 0.1 µg to 1.0 mg and orally administrable unit dose formulations, such as tablets or capsules, may contain, for example, from 0.1 to 100 mg, typically from 1 to 50 mg. For diagnostic purposes, a single unit dose formulation may be administered. In the case of physiologically acceptable salts, the weights indicated above refer to the weight of the active compound ion, that is, the ion derived from the compound of formula (I).

In the manufacture of a medicament or diagnostic aid according to the invention, hereinafter referred to as a "formulation", the compounds of formula (I) and their physiologically acceptable salts and acid derivatives are typically admixed with, *inter alia*, one or more carriers and/or excipients. The latter must, of course, be acceptable in the sense of being compatible with any other ingredient in the formulation and must not be deleterious to the patient. The carrier may be a solid or a liquid, or both, and is preferably formulated with the compound as a unit-dose formulation, for example, a tablet, which may contain from 0.05% to 95% by weight of the active compound. One or more compounds of formula (I) and/or their physiologically acceptable salts or acid derivatives may be incorporated in the formulations of the invention, which may be prepared by any of the well known techniques of pharmacy consisting essentially of admixing the components.

In addition to compounds of formula (I), other pharmacologically active substances may be present in the medicaments of the present invention. For example, the compounds of the invention may be present in combination with tissue plasminogen activator, a substance known to dissolve the fibrin network of blood clots which has found utility in the treatment of thrombotic disorders (see, for example, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 312(14), 932, (1985)).

The formulations of the invention include those suitable for oral, rectal, topical, buccal (e.g. sub-lingual), parenteral (e.g. subcutaneous, intramuscular, intradermal, or intravenous) and transdermal administration, although the most suitable route in any given case will depend on the nature and severity of the condition being treated and on the nature of the particular compound of formula (I), or the physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, which is being used.

Formulations suitable for oral administration may be presented in discrete units, such as capsules, cachets, lozenges, or tablets, each containing a predetermined amount of a compound of formula (I) or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof; as a powder or granules; as a solution or a suspension in an aqueous or non-aqueous liquid; or as an oil-in-water or water-in-oil emulsion. Such formulations may be prepared by any suitable method of pharmacy which includes the step of bringing into association the active compound and a suitable carrier (which may contain one or more accessory ingredients). In general, the formulations of the invention are prepared by uniformly and intimately admixing the active compound with a liquid or finely divided solid carrier, or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the resulting mixture. For example, a tablet may be prepared by compressing or moulding a powder or granules containing the active compound, optionally with one or more accessory ingredients. Compressed tablets may be prepared by compressing, in a suitable machine, the compound in a free-flowing form, such as a powder or granules optionally mixed with a binder, lubricant, inert diluent, and/or surface active/dispersing agent(s). Moulded tablets may be made by moulding, in a suitable machine, the powdered compound moistened with an inert liquid binder.

Formulations suitable for buccal (sub-lingual) administration include lozenges comprising a compound of formula (I), or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, in a flavoured base, usually sucrose and acacia or tragacanth; and pastilles comprising the compound in an inert base such as gelatin and glycerin or sucrose and acacia.

Formulations of the present invention suitable for parenteral administration conveniently comprise sterile aqueous preparations of a compound of formula (I), or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, which preparations are preferably isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient. These preparations are preferably administered intravenously, although administration may also be effected by means of subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intradermal injection. Such preparations may conveniently be prepared by admixing the compound with water or a glycine buffer and rendering the resulting solution sterile and isotonic with the blood. Injectable formulations according to the invention will generally contain from 0.1 to 50% w/v of active compound and be administered at a rate of 0.1 ml/min/kg.

Formulations suitable for rectal administration are preferably presented as unit dose suppositories. These may be prepared by admixing a compound of formula (I), or a physiologically acceptable salt or acid derivative thereof, with one or more conventional solid carriers, for example, cocoa butter, and then shaping the resulting mixture.

Formulations suitable for topical application to the skin preferably take the form of an ointment, cream, lotion, paste, gel, spray, aerosol, or oil. Carriers which may be used include vaseline, lanoline, polyethylene glycols, alcohols, and combinations of two or more thereof. The active compound is generally present at a concentration of from 0.1 to 15% w/w, for example, from 0.5 to 2% w/w.

Formulations for transdermal administration may be delivered by iontophoresis (see, for example, *Pharmaceutical Research* 3(6), 318, (1986)) and typically take the form of an optionally buffered aqueous

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