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(54) **PREPARATION AND USE OF CYCLIC AND BRANCHED PEPTIDES AND THEIR LABELLED DERIVATIVES AS THERAPEUTIC AGENTS, CHOLECYSTOKININ AGONISTS OR ANTAGONISTS, AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE TUMOURS**

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A61K 38/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **514/9**

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

(56) **References Cited**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This patent application describes the preparation of cyclic and branched peptides of general formula (I) and their conjugated derivatives labelled with a paramagnetic or radioactive metal. The compounds of the present invention are used as diagnostic agents to identify and locate primary tumours and their metastases which over-express type A and/or B cholecystokinin receptors, and as therapeutic agents and cholecystokinin agonists or antagonists.

18 Claims, 3 Drawing Sheets

MAIA Exhibit 1010

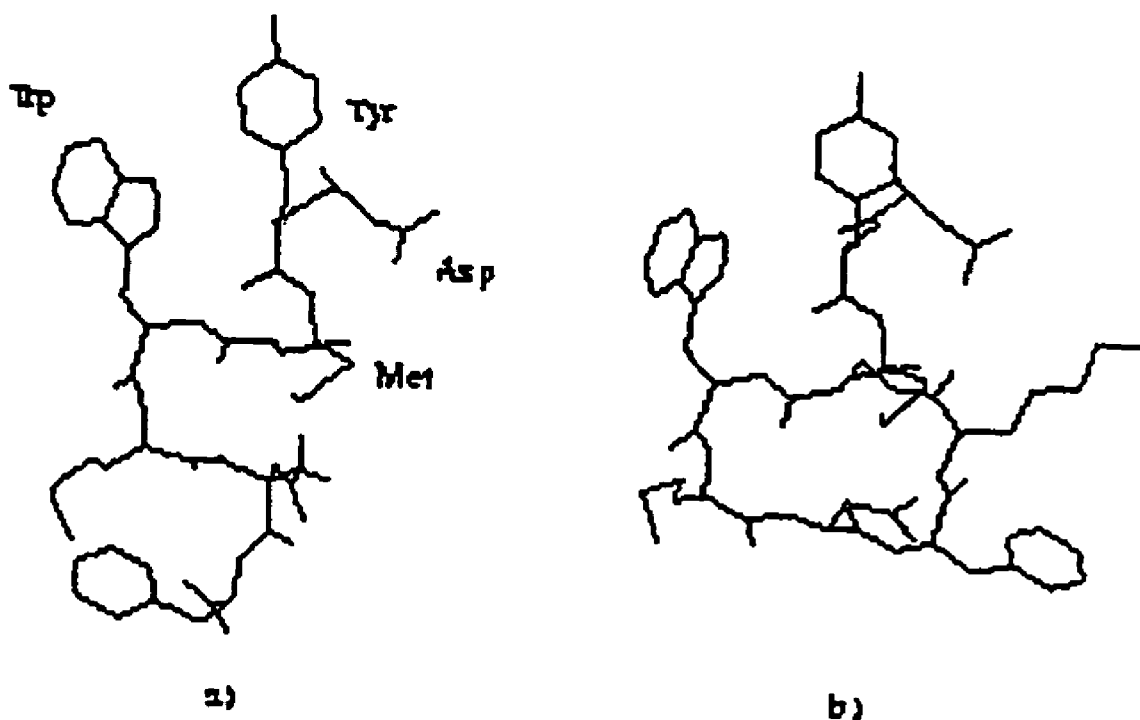


Figure 1

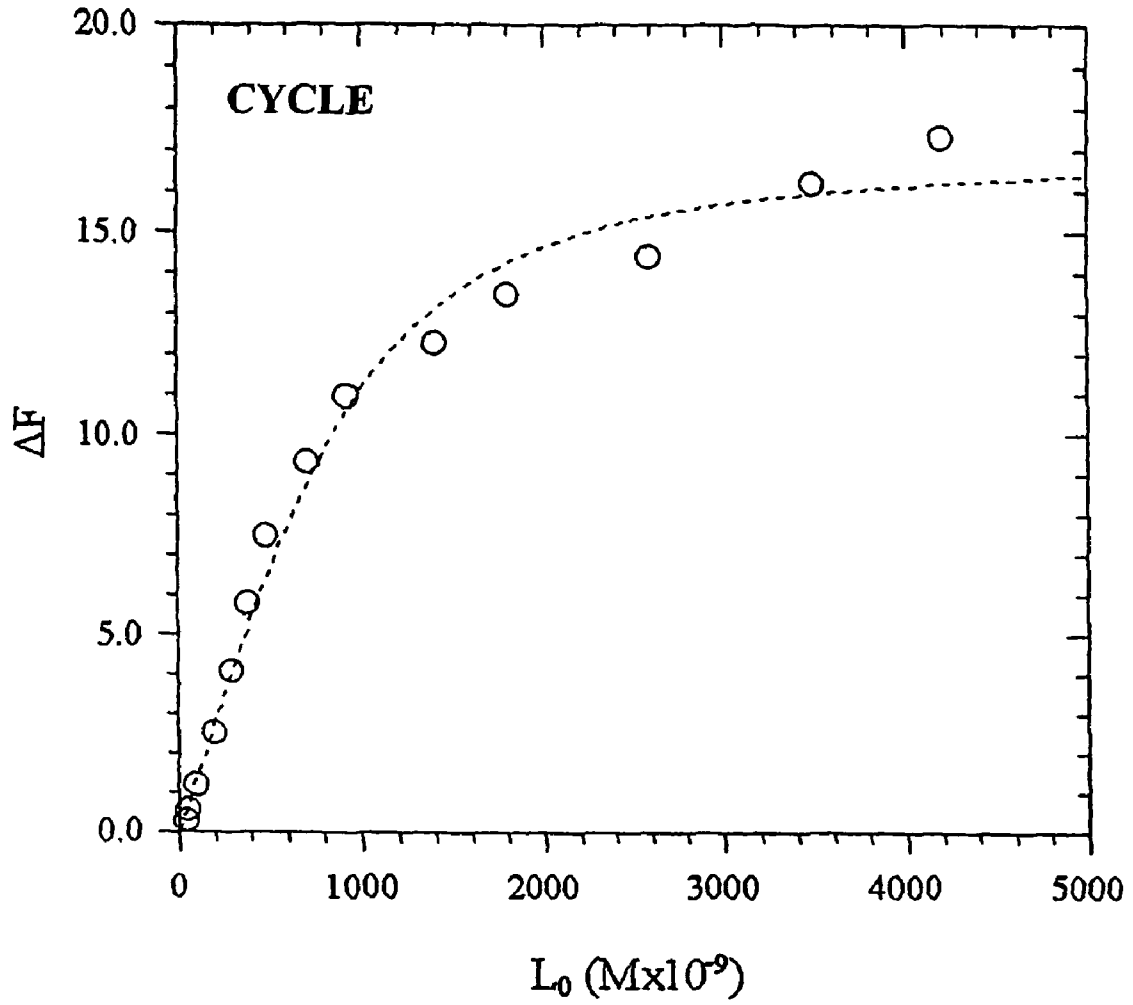


Figure 2

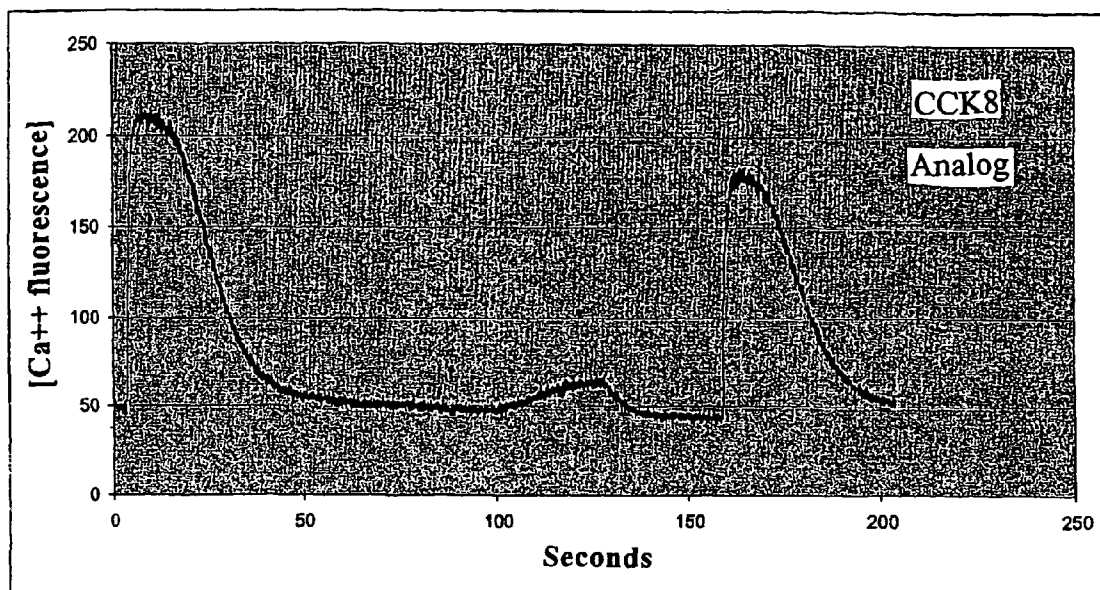


Figure 3

1

**PREPARATION AND USE OF CYCLIC AND
BRANCHED PEPTIDES AND THEIR
LABELLED DERIVATIVES AS
THERAPEUTIC AGENTS,
CHOLECYSTOKININ AGONISTS OR
ANTAGONISTS, AND DIAGNOSTIC AGENTS
TO IDENTIFY AND LOCATE TUMOURS**

The present invention relates to cyclic and branched peptides of general formula (I) and their derivatives conjugated with a spacer molecule Y and a chelating agent C, labelled with a paramagnetic or radioactive metal.

The compounds of the invention are used as diagnostic agents to identify and locate primary human tumours and their metastases which over-express type A and/or type B cholecystokinin receptors, and as therapeutic agents and cholecystokinin agonists or antagonists.

Cholecystokinins (CCKs) are a family of peptide molecules whose biological action is performed as a hormone and a neurotransmitter. All the CCKs originate from a process of fragmentation which takes place on a pre-hormone consisting of 115 amino acid residues, followed by a post-translational process of alpha-amidation of the C-terminal phenylalanine residue and sometimes, sulphation of the tyrosine residue contained in the C-terminal portion. The cholecystokinins therefore exist in various molecular forms; the most important ones have a sequence of 58, 39, 33 or 8 amino acid residues, and they all have the same C-terminal sequence of 8 amino acid residues:

Asp-Tyr-Met-Gly-Trp-Met-Asp-Phe-amide.

The form containing this sequence only is known as CCK8.

The biological activity of cholecystokinin depends on the type of receptor with which it interacts. Two types of receptor are known: type A and type B. In non-pathological situations, type A receptor is present in the tissues of peripheral organs such as the stomach, gall bladder, intestine and pancreas. The most important physiological actions due to the interaction of the CCK peptide hormone with type A receptor are contraction of the gall bladder, secretion of pancreatic enzymes, regulation of secretion, and absorption into the gastrointestinal tract. Type B receptor is mainly present in the central nervous system, where the interaction with cholecystokinin causes analgesia, satiety and anxiety, and regulates the release of dopamine.

Both the cholecystokinin receptors belong to the class of G-Protein Coupled Receptors (GPCRs), membrane receptors with seven transmembrane helices joined by intra- and extra-cellular loops with an extracellular N-terminal arm and an intracellular C-terminal part. Both receptors have high affinities for the various forms of cholecystokinin; however, type A receptor has a greater affinity for the sulphated forms of cholecystokinin, namely the ones which contain a sulphuric group on the Tyr 27 residue, while type B receptor has a high affinity for the various forms of non-sulphated cholecystokinin and for gastrin. A series of peptide and non-peptide cholecystokinin-analog molecules with agonist or antagonist activity for type A and type B receptors are known (P. De Tullio, *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, 6, 433, 1999; F. Noble, *Progress in Neurobiology*, 58, 349, 1999). No pharmacological application has been found for any of the known molecules due to their low bioavailability and low solubility or high enzymatic degradation.

Cholecystokinin receptors have recently been identified in primary human tumours and metastases (J. C. Reubi, *Cancer*

2

(*Biochemical Journal*, 89, 114-123, 1963), ^{111}In or ^{115}In , used in nuclear medicine to visualise human tumours, is described in particular in that article and in the patent cited by J. C. Reubi.

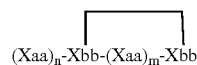
Type A receptor in particular is over-expressed in pancreatic and oesophageal tumours, while type B receptor has been found to be over-expressed in small lung cell tumour, tumours of the colon and gastrointestinal tract, medullary thyroid tumours, astrocytomas and ovarian stromal tumours.

Some peptides deriving from cholecystokinin modified with chelating agents of radioactive or paramagnetic metals have been studied in clinical trials. In particular, CCK8 derivatives containing the chelating agents DTPA or DOTA which complex radioactive metals like ^{111}In and ^{90}Y , and their application to identify and treat tumours that over-express type B cholecystokinin receptor, have been reported (M. De Jong, *Journal of Nuclear Medicine*, 40, 2082, 1999).

The NMR structure of the complex between the non-sulphated peptide CCK8 and the N-terminal part of type A cholecystokinin receptor, responsible for the interaction with the peptide hormone, was recently published (M. Pellegrini, *Biochemistry*, 38, 14775, 1999). The N-terminal part of the receptor (receptor fragment) consists of 47 amino acids, and represents the extracellular N-terminal arm and the first part of transmembrane helix 1 of the type A receptor. This fragment does not contain the residue of Arg 197, present on the transmembrane loop, which is responsible for the interaction with the sulphuric group of Tyr 27 of CCK 8, with the result that peptide CCK8 is not used in the sulphated form (V. Gigoux, *Protein Science*, 8, 2347, 1999). In addition to the detailed structural information indicated in the NMR study, a recent study performed by observing the variations in fluorescence of the tryptophan residues present on the receptor fragment and the peptide confirmed the binding (R. Ragone, *Biopolymers*, 47-53, 56, 2001, publication pending), and enabled the affinity constant between non-sulphated CCK8 and the receptor fragment to be determined.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The compounds object of the present invention are cyclic peptides of general formula (I):



wherein:

Xaa, independently of each other, is any amino acid;

Xbb is an alpha or beta amino acid containing at least three functional groups selected from the group consisting of:

—COOH, —NH₂, —SH and —OH,

n is between 0 and 15, and

m is between 2 and 12.

Xbb is preferably selected from the group consisting of:

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