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(54) **BENZOQUINOLINE INHIBITORS OF VESICULAR MONOAMINE TRANSPORTER 2**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**
USPC **514/294**; 546/79; 514/290

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USPC 546/79; 514/290
See application file for complete search history.

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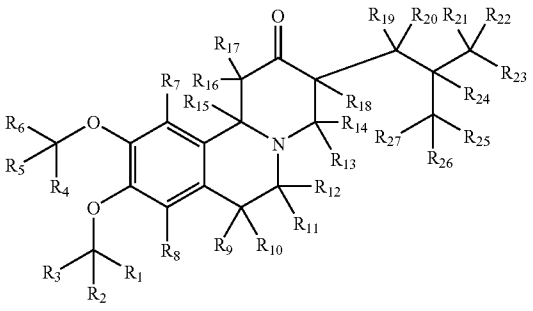
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to new benzoquinoline inhibitors of vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2), pharmaceutical compositions thereof, and methods of use thereof.

Formula I



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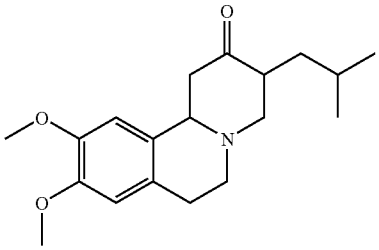
BENZOQUINOLINE INHIBITORS OF VESICULAR MONOAMINE TRANSPORTER 2

This application claims the benefit of priority of U.S. provisional application No. 61/097,896, filed Sep. 18, 2008, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference as if written herein in its entirety.

Disclosed herein are new benzoquinoline compounds, pharmaceutical compositions made thereof, and methods to inhibit vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) activity in a subject are also provided for, for the treatment of chronic hyperkinetic movement disorders.

Tetrabenazine (Nitoman, Xenazine, Ro 1-9569), 1,3,4,6,7,11b-Hexahydro-9,10-dimethoxy-3-(2-methylpropyl)-2H-benzo[a]quinoline, is a vesicular monoamine transporter 2 (VMAT2) inhibitor. Tetrabenazine is commonly prescribed for the treatment of Huntington's disease (Savani et al., *Neurology* 2007, 68(10), 797; and Kenney et al., *Expert Review of Neurotherapeutics* 2006, 6(1), 7-17).



Tetrabenazine

In vivo, tetrabenazine is rapidly and extensively metabolized to its reduced form, 3-isobutyl-9,10-dimethoxy-1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-2H-pyrido[2,1-a]isoquinolin-2-ol, which then binds specifically to VMAT2 (Zhang et al., *AAPS Journal,* 2006, 8(4), E682-692). Additional metabolic pathways involve O-demethylation of the methoxy groups, as well as hydroxylation of the isobutyl group (Schwartz et al., *Biochem. Pharmacol.,* 1966, 15, 645-655). Adverse effects associated with the administration of tetrabenazine include neuroleptic malignant syndrome, drowsiness, fatigue, nervousness, anxiety, insomnia, agitation, confusion, orthostatic hypotension, nausea, dizziness, depression, and Parkinsonism.

Deuterium Kinetic Isotope Effect

In order to eliminate foreign substances such as therapeutic agents, the animal body expresses various enzymes, such as the cytochrome P_{450} enzymes (CYPs), esterases, proteases, reductases, dehydrogenases, and monoamine oxidases, to react with and convert these foreign substances to more polar intermediates or metabolites for renal excretion. Such metabolic reactions frequently involve the oxidation of a carbon-hydrogen (C—H) bond to either a carbon-oxygen (C—O) or a carbon-carbon (C—C) π-bond. The resultant metabolites may be stable or unstable under physiological conditions, and can have substantially different pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamic, and acute and long-term toxicity profiles relative to the parent compounds. For most drugs, such oxidations are generally rapid and ultimately lead to administration of multiple or high daily doses.

The relationship between the activation energy and the rate of reaction may be quantified by the Arrhenius equation, $k=Ae^{-Eact/RT}$. The Arrhenius equation states that, at a given

The transition state in a reaction is a short lived state along the reaction pathway during which the original bonds have stretched to their limit. By definition, the activation energy E_{act} for a reaction is the energy required to reach the transition state of that reaction. Once the transition state is reached, the molecules can either revert to the original reactants, or form new bonds giving rise to reaction products. A catalyst facilitates a reaction process by lowering the activation energy leading to a transition state. Enzymes are examples of biological catalysts.

Carbon-hydrogen bond strength is directly proportional to the absolute value of the ground-state vibrational energy of the bond. This vibrational energy depends on the mass of the atoms that form the bond, and increases as the mass of one or both of the atoms making the bond increases. Since deuterium (D) has twice the mass of protium (^1H), a C-D bond is stronger than the corresponding C—^1H bond. If a C—^1H bond is broken during a rate-determining step in a chemical reaction (i.e. the step with the highest transition state energy), then substituting a deuterium for that protium will cause a decrease in the reaction rate. This phenomenon is known as the Deuterium Kinetic Isotope Effect (DKIE). The magnitude of the DKIE can be expressed as the ratio between the rates of a given reaction in which a C—^1H bond is broken, and the same reaction where deuterium is substituted for protium. The DKIE can range from about 1 (no isotope effect) to very large numbers, such as 50 or more. Substitution of tritium for hydrogen results in yet a stronger bond than deuterium and gives numerically larger isotope effects

Deuterium (^2H or D) is a stable and non-radioactive isotope of hydrogen which has approximately twice the mass of protium (^1H), the most common isotope of hydrogen. Deuterium oxide (D_2O or "heavy water") looks and tastes like H_2O, but has different physical properties.

When pure D_2O is given to rodents, it is readily absorbed. The quantity of deuterium required to induce toxicity is extremely high. When about 0-15% of the body water has been replaced by D_2O, animals are healthy but are unable to gain weight as fast as the control (untreated) group. When about 15-20% of the body water has been replaced with D_2O, the animals become excitable. When about 20-25% of the body water has been replaced with D_2O, the animals become so excitable that they go into frequent convulsions when stimulated. Skin lesions, ulcers on the paws and muzzles, and necrosis of the tails appear. The animals also become very aggressive. When about 30% of the body water has been replaced with D_2O, the animals refuse to eat and become comatose. Their body weight drops sharply and their metabolic rates drop far below normal, with death occurring at about 30 to about 35% replacement with D_2O. The effects are reversible unless more than thirty percent of the previous body weight has been lost due to D_2O. Studies have also shown that the use of D_2O can delay the growth of cancer cells and enhance the cytotoxicity of certain antineoplastic agents.

Deuteration of pharmaceuticals to improve pharmacokinetics (PK), pharmacodynamics (PD), and toxicity profiles has been demonstrated previously with some classes of drugs. For example, the DKIE was used to decrease the hepatotoxicity of halothane, presumably by limiting the production of reactive species such as trifluoroacetyl chloride. However, this method may not be applicable to all drug classes. For example, deuterium incorporation can lead to metabolic switching. Metabolic switching occurs when xenogens, sequestered by Phase I enzymes, bind transiently and re-bind in a variety of conformations prior to the chemical reaction (e.g., oxidation). Metabolic switching is enabled by the relatively vast size of binding pockets in many Phase I enzymes and the promiscuous nature of many metabolic reactions.

This new metabolic profile may impart more or less toxicity. Such pitfalls are non-obvious and are not predictable a priori for any drug class.

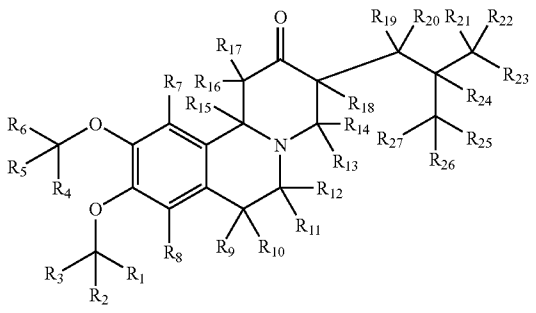
Tetrabenazine is a VMAT2 inhibitor. The carbon-hydrogen bonds of tetrabenazine contain a naturally occurring distribution of hydrogen isotopes, namely ^{1}H or protium (about 99.9844%), ^{2}H or deuterium (about 0.0156%), and ^{3}H or tritium (in the range between about 0.5 and 67 tritium atoms per 10^{18} protium atoms). Increased levels of deuterium incorporation may produce a detectable Deuterium Kinetic Isotope Effect (DKIE) that could affect the pharmacokinetic, pharmacologic and/or toxicologic profiles of tetrabenazine in comparison with tetrabenazine having naturally occurring levels of deuterium.

Based on discoveries made in our laboratory, as well as considering the literature, tetrabenazine is metabolized in humans at the isobutyl and methoxy groups. The current approach has the potential to prevent metabolism at these sites. Other sites on the molecule may also undergo transformations leading to metabolites with as-yet-unknown pharmacology/toxicology. Limiting the production of these metabolites has the potential to decrease the danger of the administration of such drugs and may even allow increased dosage and/or increased efficacy. All of these transformations can occur through polymorphically-expressed enzymes, exacerbating interpatient variability. Further, some disorders are best treated when the subject is medicated around the clock or for an extended period of time. For all of the foregoing reasons, a medicine with a longer half-life may result in greater efficacy and cost savings. Various deuteration patterns can be used to (a) reduce or eliminate unwanted metabolites, (b) increase the half-life of the parent drug, (c) decrease the number of doses needed to achieve a desired effect, (d) decrease the amount of a dose needed to achieve a desired effect, (e) increase the formation of active metabolites, if any are formed, (f) decrease the production of deleterious metabolites in specific tissues, and/or (g) create a more effective drug and/or a safer drug for polypharmacy, whether the polypharmacy be intentional or not. The deuteration approach has the strong potential to slow the metabolism of tetrabenazine and attenuate interpatient variability.

Novel compounds and pharmaceutical compositions, certain of which have been found to inhibit VMAT2 have been discovered, together with methods of synthesizing and using the compounds, including methods for the treatment of VMAT2-mediated disorders in a patient by administering the compounds as disclosed herein.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, compounds have structural Formula I:

(I)



or a salt, solvate, or prodrug thereof, wherein:

R_1-R_{27} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and deuterium; and

at least one of R_1-R_{27} is deuterium.

In certain embodiments, Formula I can include a single enantiomer, a mixture of the (+)-enantiomer and the (−)-enantiomer, a mixture of about 90% or more by weight of the (−)-enantiomer and about 10% or less by weight of the (+)-enantiomer, a mixture of about 90% or more by weight of the (+)-enantiomer and about 10% or less by weight of the (−)-enantiomer, an individual diastereomer, or a mixture of diastereomers thereof.

Certain compounds disclosed herein may possess useful VMAT2 inhibiting activity, and may be used in the treatment or prophylaxis of a disorder in which VMAT2 plays an active role. Thus, certain embodiments also provide pharmaceutical compositions comprising one or more compounds disclosed herein together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, as well as methods of making and using the compounds and compositions. Certain embodiments provide methods for inhibiting VMAT2. Other embodiments provide methods for treating a VMAT2-mediated disorder in a patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or composition according to the present invention. Also provided is the use of certain compounds disclosed herein for use in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of a disorder ameliorated by the inhibition of VMAT2.

The compounds as disclosed herein may also contain less prevalent isotopes for other elements, including, but not limited to, ^{13}C or ^{14}C for carbon, ^{33}S, ^{34}S, or ^{36}S for sulfur, ^{15}N for nitrogen, and ^{17}O or ^{18}O for oxygen.

In certain embodiments, the compound disclosed herein may expose a patient to a maximum of about 0.000005% D_2O or about 0.00001% DHO, assuming that all of the C-D bonds in the compound as disclosed herein are metabolized and released as D_2O or DHO. In certain embodiments, the levels of D_2O shown to cause toxicity in animals is much greater than even the maximum limit of exposure caused by administration of the deuterium enriched compound as disclosed herein. Thus, in certain embodiments, the deuterium-enriched compound disclosed herein should not cause any additional toxicity due to the formation of D_2O or DHO upon drug metabolism.

In certain embodiments, the deuterated compounds disclosed herein maintain the beneficial aspects of the corresponding non-isotopically enriched molecules while substantially increasing the maximum tolerated dose, decreasing toxicity, increasing the half-life ($T_{1/2}$), lowering the maximum plasma concentration (C_{max}) of the minimum efficacious dose (MED), lowering the efficacious dose and thus decreasing the non-mechanism-related toxicity, and/or lowering the probability of drug-drug interactions.

All publications and references cited herein are expressly incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. However, with respect to any similar or identical terms found in both the incorporated publications or references and those explicitly put forth or defined in this document, then those terms definitions or meanings explicitly put forth in this document shall control in all respects.

As used herein, the terms below have the meanings indicated.

The singular forms "a," "an," and "the" may refer to plural articles unless specifically stated otherwise.

The term "about," as used herein, is intended to qualify the numerical values which it modifies, denoting such a value as

a chart or table of data, is recited, the term "about" should be understood to mean that range which would encompass the recited value and the range which would be included by rounding up or down to that figure as well, taking into account significant figures.

When ranges of values are disclosed, and the notation "from n_1 . . . to n_2" or "n_1-n_2" is used, where n_1 and n_2 are the numbers, then unless otherwise specified, this notation is intended to include the numbers themselves and the range between them. This range may be integral or continuous between and including the end values.

The term "deuterium enrichment" refers to the percentage of incorporation of deuterium at a given position in a molecule in the place of hydrogen. For example, deuterium enrichment of 1% at a given position means that 1% of molecules in a given sample contain deuterium at the specified position. Because the naturally occurring distribution of deuterium is about 0.0156%, deuterium enrichment at any position in a compound synthesized using non-enriched starting materials is about 0.0156%. The deuterium enrichment can be determined using conventional analytical methods known to one of ordinary skill in the art, including mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

The term "is/are deuterium," when used to describe a given position in a molecule such as R_1-R_{27} or the symbol "D", when used to represent a given position in a drawing of a molecular structure, means that the specified position is enriched with deuterium above the naturally occurring distribution of deuterium. In one embodiment deuterium enrichment is no less than about 1%, in another no less than about 5%, in another no less than about 10%, in another no less than about 20%, in another no less than about 50%, in another no less than about 70%, in another no less than about 80%, in another no less than about 90%, or in another no less than about 98% of deuterium at the specified position.

The term "isotopic enrichment" refers to the percentage of incorporation of a less prevalent isotope of an element at a given position in a molecule in the place of the more prevalent isotope of the element.

The term "non-isotopically enriched" refers to a molecule in which the percentages of the various isotopes are substantially the same as the naturally occurring percentages.

Asymmetric centers exist in the compounds disclosed herein. These centers are designated by the symbols "R" or "S," depending on the configuration of substituents around the chiral carbon atom. It should be understood that the invention encompasses all stereochemical isomeric forms, including diastereomeric, enantiomeric, and epimeric forms, as well as D-isomers and L-isomers, and mixtures thereof. Individual stereoisomers of compounds can be prepared synthetically from commercially available starting materials which contain chiral centers or by preparation of mixtures of enantiomeric products followed by separation such as conversion to a mixture of diastereomers followed by separation or recrystallization, chromatographic techniques, direct separation of enantiomers on chiral chromatographic columns, or any other appropriate method known in the art. Starting compounds of particular stereochemistry are either commercially available or can be made and resolved by techniques known in the art. Additionally, the compounds disclosed herein may exist as geometric isomers. The present invention includes all cis, trans, syn, anti, entgegen (E), and zusammen (Z) isomers as well as the appropriate mixtures thereof. Additionally, compounds may exist as tautomers; all tautomeric isomers are provided by this invention. Additionally, the compounds

water, ethanol, and the like. In general, the solvated forms are considered equivalent to the unsolvated forms.

The term "bond" refers to a covalent linkage between two atoms, or two moieties when the atoms joined by the bond are considered to be part of larger substructure. A bond may be single, double, or triple unless otherwise specified. A dashed line between two atoms in a drawing of a molecule indicates that an additional bond may be present or absent at that position.

The term "disorder" as used herein is intended to be generally synonymous, and is used interchangeably with, the terms "disease", "syndrome", and "condition" (as in medical condition), in that all reflect an abnormal condition of the human or animal body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning, is typically manifested by distinguishing signs and symptoms.

The terms "treat," "treating," and "treatment" are meant to include alleviating or abrogating a disorder or one or more of the symptoms associated with a disorder; or alleviating or eradicating the cause(s) of the disorder itself. As used herein, reference to "treatment" of a disorder is intended to include prevention. The terms "prevent," "preventing," and "prevention" refer to a method of delaying or precluding the onset of a disorder; and/or its attendant symptoms, barring a subject from acquiring a disorder or reducing a subject's risk of acquiring a disorder.

The term "therapeutically effective amount" refers to the amount of a compound that, when administered, is sufficient to prevent development of, or alleviate to some extent, one or more of the symptoms of the disorder being treated. The term "therapeutically effective amount" also refers to the amount of a compound that is sufficient to elicit the biological or medical response of a cell, tissue, system, animal, or human that is being sought by a researcher, veterinarian, medical doctor, or clinician.

The term "subject" refers to an animal, including, but not limited to, a primate (e.g., human, monkey, chimpanzee, gorilla, and the like), rodents (e.g., rats, mice, gerbils, hamsters, ferrets, and the like), lagomorphs, swine (e.g., pig, miniature pig), equine, canine, feline, and the like. The terms "subject" and "patient" are used interchangeably herein in reference, for example, to a mammalian subject, such as a human patient.

The term "combination therapy" means the administration of two or more therapeutic agents to treat a therapeutic disorder described in the present disclosure. Such administration encompasses co-administration of these therapeutic agents in a substantially simultaneous manner, such as in a single capsule having a fixed ratio of active ingredients or in multiple, separate capsules for each active ingredient. In addition, such administration also encompasses use of each type of therapeutic agent in a sequential manner. In either case, the treatment regimen will provide beneficial effects of the drug combination in treating the disorders described herein.

The term "chronic hyperkinetic movement disorders" refers to disorders characterized by non-purposeful, repetitive, disordered motor acts, variously termed "compulsive", "rhythmical", or "stereotyped." In humans, chronic hyperkinetic movement disorders can be psychogenic (e.g., tics), idiopathic (as in, e.g., Tourette's syndrome and Parkinson's Disease, genetic (as in, e.g., the chorea characteristic of Huntington's Disease), infectious (as in, e.g., Sydenham's Chorea), or, as in tardive dyskinesia, drug-induced. Unless otherwise stated, "chronic hyperkinetic movement disorders"

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Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research

With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

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Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

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API

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LAW FIRMS
Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

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Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

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Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.