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(74) Agents: **TURNER, Craig, Robert** et al.; A.A. Thornton
& Co, 235 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LE (GB).

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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **HOV-
IONE INTER LTD.** [CH/CH]; Bahnhofstrasse 21,
CH-6000 Lucerne 7 (CH).

(71) Applicant (for MW only): **TURNER, Craig, Robert**
[GB/GB]; A.A. Thornton & Co., 235 High Holborn,
London WC1V 7LE (GB).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SOBRAL, Luis**
[PT/PT]; R. Fernão Memdes Pinto, 7-1° F, Infantado,
P-2670-388 Loures (PT). **MARTIN, Dionisio** [ES/ES];
Teso de San Nicolas, 23-2° C, E-37008 Salamanca (ES).
HEGGIE, William [GB/PT]; Rua João António Moínho,
Cabanas, P-2950-656 Palmela (PT). **LEITÃO, Emilia**
[PT/PT]; Av. do Brasil, 145-3° Dto., P-2735-675 São
Marcos (PT).

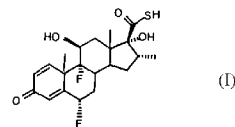
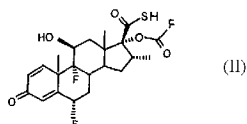
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE ESTERIFICATION OF A CARBOTHIOIC ACID



(57) Abstract: A process for preparing compounds of formula: (II) by esterification of the C-17 hydroxyl group of 6 α , 9 α -difluoro-11 β , 17 α -dihydroxy-16 α -methyl-3-oxoandrosta-1,4-diene-17 β -carbothioic acid, the compound of formula: (I) comprises treating compound (I) with a slight excess of an acyl chloride of general formula R-COCl, where R represents -CH₂CH₃, -CH₂CH₂CH₃ or -CH(CH₃)₂, in an inert solvent, in the presence of a tertiary amine. Preferably the process is carried out using pyridine in the presence of acetone at a temperature of from 5 °C to -20 °C. z.

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