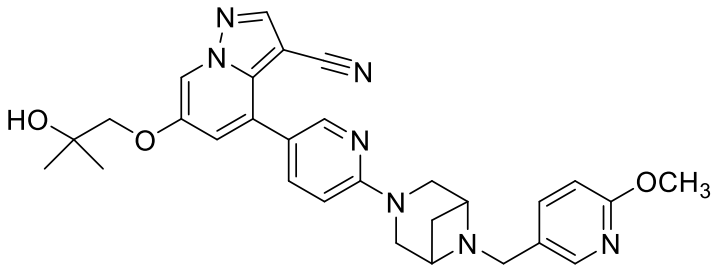
CRYSTALLINE RET INHIBITOR

BACKGROUND

[0001] Selpercatinib (LOXO-292 or RETEVMO™) is a RET inhibitor approved in the United States for use in the treatment of patients with metastatic RET fusion-positive NSCLC, RET-mutant medullary thyroid cancer, and RET fusion-positive thyroid cancer. Selpercatinib, or 6-(2-hydroxy-2-methylpropoxy)-4-(6-(6-((6-methoxypyridin-3-yl)methyl)-3,6-diazabicyclo[3.1.1]heptan-3-yl)pyridin-3-yl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-3-carbonitrile, has the following chemical structure:



(Formula I).

[0002] While U.S. Patent No. 10,584,124 describes several crystal forms for selpercatinib, including a crystalline form referred to as “Form A,” disclosed herein is a new, thermodynamically more stable crystal form, and methods of making this crystal form. This new crystal form can be incorporated into formulations, such as tablets, capsules, and suspensions, which would benefit patients.

SUMMARY

[0002a] In one aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a crystalline form of selpercatinib, which is characterized by an x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) pattern comprising a peak at 21.1° and one or more peaks at 17.1°, 17.7°, and 19.8° ± 0.2° 2θ as measured using an x-ray wavelength of 1.5418 Å.

[0002b] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline form of selpercatinib disclosed herein, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

[0002c] In a further aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a use of selpercatinib disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer.

[0002d] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a use of a pharmaceutical composition disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

[0002e] In a further aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a process for making the crystalline form of selpercatinib disclosed herein, comprising the steps of:

(a) suspending selpercatinib in a solvent; wherein the solvent comprises methanol;

(b) heating the suspension to between 50 ^{o}C and 60 ^{o}C while stirring for 30 to 90 minutes;

(c) removing the heat and allowing the suspension to cool to room temperature to form solid crystals; and

(d) collecting the solid crystals.

[0002f] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising: combining selpercatinib Form A with a C_1-C_5 alcohol to generate a slurry; and isolating selpercatinib Form B from the slurry.

[0002g] In a further aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising:

a. dissolving the selpercatinib Form A in a solvent comprising DMSO to form a solution;

b. adding water to the solution and thereby forming a slurry;

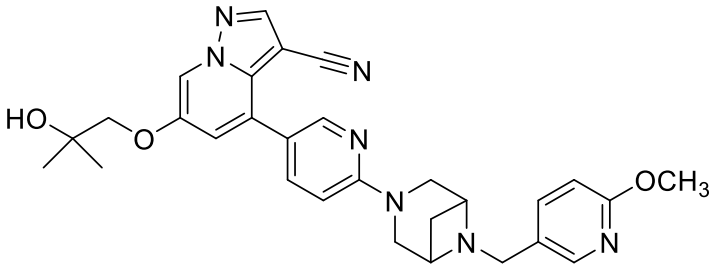
c. isolating the selpercatinib Form B.

[0002h] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising:

combining selpercatinib Form A and methanol to form a slurry, and stirring the slurry until >99 wt% of the Form A is converted to Form B, wherein the concentration of the selpercatinib Form A in the methanol is about 8 mL/g.

[0002i] In a further aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising dissolving selpercatinib Form A in DMSO at about 60-80 °C to form a solution having a concentration of about 10-15 mL/g of DMSO per gram of Form A; cooling the solution to about 40-60 °C, adding water; optionally seeding the resulting mixture with Form B seed crystals; stirring the mixture; adding more water; heating the mixture to about 60-80 °C; cooling the mixture and isolating the Form B.

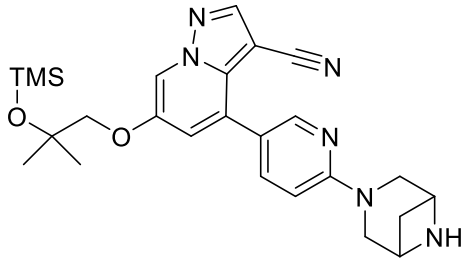
[0002j] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a process for preparing selpercatinib as polymorph Form B, of Formula I:



(Formula I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein the process comprises reacting a compound of the structure:

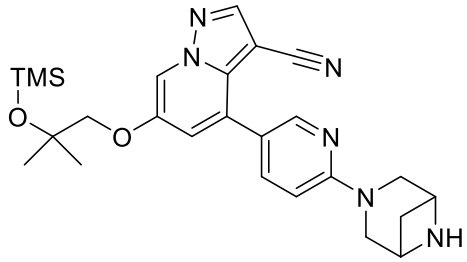


[3]

or a salt thereof, in a solvent with 6-methoxynicotinaldehyde in the presence of an acid and a reducing agent to prepare selpercatinib Form B or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the solvent comprises anisole.

[0002k] In a further aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a compound that is 4-[6-(3,6-diazabicyclo[3.1.1]heptan-3-yl)-3-pyridyl]-6-(2-methyl-2-

trimethylsilyloxy-propoxy)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-3-carbonitrile, which has the structure **[3]**



[3]

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

[0002l] In another aspect of the present disclosure, there is provided a selpercatinib disclosed herein, or the pharmaceutical composition disclosed herein, for use in therapy.

[0003] This disclosure relates to a new crystalline form of selpercatinib, and methods of making this thermodynamically stable polymorph, which is referred to throughout as “Form B.” In a general sense, this disclosure provides methods for its preparation, isolation, and characterization.

[0004] As described in more detail below, the compound of Formula I (selpercatinib) can be provided as polymorphic forms (Form A and Form B) and, surprisingly, that certain processes and methods are effective to provide selpercatinib in its most thermodynamically stable polymorph Form B. As described

below and demonstrated by the illustrative working examples, the processes and methods for generating and preparing selpercatinib in a specific polymorph form may comprise converting (i.e., reacting, contacting, and/or treating) the compound of Formula I provided as one or more polymorph forms, under crystallization conditions that are effective to generate or convert the other polymorphs (i.e., Form A) to Form B. In other examples, the processes and methods for generating selpercatinib Form B may comprise a synthetic route comprising reacting one or more intermediate or precursor compounds under conditions that are effective to generate selpercatinib Form B (i.e., direct synthetic routes).

[0005] Form B is characterized by at least one of (a) an x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) pattern comprising a peak at 21.1° and one or more peaks at 17.1°, 17.7°, and 19.8° ± 0.2° 2θ as measured using an x-ray wavelength of 1.5418 Å, or (b) a ^{13}C solid state NMR spectrum which comprises peaks referenced to the high field resonance of adamantane (δ = 29.5 ppm) at: 28.0, 48.0, 80.4, 106.8, 130.2, and 134.9 ppm (± 0.2 ppm, respectively).

[0006] Methods of using Form B and pharmaceutical compositions thereof, to treat cancer, such as cancers with abnormal RET expression (e.g., a RET-associated cancer like medullary thyroid cancer or RET fusion lung cancer) are also provided. The methods include administering a therapeutically effective amount of Form B to a patient in need.

[0007] Also provided herein, is Form B for use in therapy. Further provided herein, is Form B for use in the treatment of cancer, in particular, for use in the treatment of cancer with abnormal RET expression (e.g., a RET-associated cancer like medullary thyroid cancer or RET fusion lung cancer).

[0008] The use of Form B in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer, in particular, for use in the treatment of cancer with abnormal RET expression (e.g., a RET-associated cancer like medullary thyroid cancer or RET fusion lung cancer), is also provided.

What is claimed is:

1. A crystalline form of selpercatinib, which is characterized by an x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) pattern comprising a peak at 21.1° and one or more peaks at 17.1°, 17.7°, and 19.8° ± 0.2° 2θ as measured using an x-ray wavelength of 1.5418 Å.

2. The crystalline form of selpercatinib according to Claim 1, wherein the crystalline form is characterized by having an x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) pattern comprising a peak at 21.1° and one or more peaks at 7.5°, 12.0°, 13.2°, 17.1°, 17.7°, and 19.8° ± 0.2° 2θ as measured using an x-ray wavelength of 1.5418 Å.

3. The crystalline form of selpercatinib according to Claim 1, wherein the crystalline form is characterized by having an x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) pattern having characteristic peaks occurring at 7.5°, 10.9°, 12.0°, 13.2°, 17.1°, 17.7°, 18.2°, 19.8°, 21.1°, and 24.5° ± 0.2° 2θ.

4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a crystalline form of selpercatinib according to any of claims 1-3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

5. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the composition contains less than about 20% by wt. of other crystal forms of selpercatinib.

6. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the composition contains less than about 10% by wt. of other crystal forms of selpercatinib.

7. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 4, wherein the composition contains less than about 5% by wt. of other crystal forms of selpercatinib.

8. Use of selpercatinib according to any of claims 1-3 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating cancer.

9. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 4-7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of cancer.

10. The use according to claim 9, wherein the cancer is selected from the group consisting of: lung cancer, papillary thyroid cancer, medullary thyroid cancer, differentiated thyroid cancer, recurrent thyroid cancer, refractory differentiated thyroid cancer, multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A or 2B (MEN2A or MEN2B, respectively), pheochromocytoma, parathyroid hyperplasia, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, papillary renal cell carcinoma, ganglioneuromatosis of the gastroenteric mucosa, and cervical cancer.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the cancer is medullary thyroid cancer.

12. The use according to claim 10, wherein the cancer is lung cancer and the lung cancer is small cell lung carcinoma, non-small cell lung cancer, bronchioles lung cell carcinoma, RET fusion lung cancer, or lung adenocarcinoma.

13. The use according to claim 10 wherein the cancer is RET fusion lung cancer.

14. A process for making the crystalline form of selpercatinib of claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) suspending selpercatinib in a solvent; wherein the solvent comprises methanol;

(b) heating the suspension to between 50 ^{o}C and 60 ^{o}C while stirring for 30 to 90 minutes;

(c) removing the heat and allowing the suspension to cool to room temperature to form solid crystals; and

(d) collecting the solid crystals.

15. A method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising: combining selpercatinib Form A with a C_1-C_5 alcohol to generate a slurry; and isolating selpercatinib Form B from the slurry.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the C_1-C_5 alcohol is about 10 °C to about 30 °C, and the C_1-C_5 alcohol comprises methanol.

17. The method according to any one of claims 15-16, wherein C_1-C_5 alcohol comprises at least 90 wt% methanol.

18. A method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising:

a. dissolving the selpercatinib Form A in a solvent comprising DMSO to form a solution;

b. adding water to the solution and thereby forming a slurry;

c. isolating the selpercatinib Form B.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of Form A dissolved in DMSO is about 10-15 mL/g.

20. The method according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of Form A dissolved in DMSO is about 12-13 mL/g.

21. The method according to any one of claims 18-20, wherein forming the solution of step a comprises heating the selpercatinib Form A and the solvent comprising DMSO to about 50 °C to about 70 °C.

22. The method according to any one of claims 18-21, wherein the solution is cooled to a temperature less than about 70 °C and greater than about 20 °C.

23. The method according to any one of claims 18-22, wherein step b comprises adding about 0.1 to about 1 mL of water per gram of Form A to the solution.

24. The method according to any one of claims 18-23, wherein step b comprises adding about 0.3 mL of water per gram of Form A to the solution.

25. The method according to any one of claims 18-24, wherein step b further comprises adding about 1 to about 15 wt% of Form B seed crystals.

26. The method according to any one of claims 18-25, wherein the slurry is stirred for about 6 to about 72 hours, after the water is added in step b.

27. The method according to any one of claims 18-26, wherein step b further comprises adding a second tranche of water to the slurry.

28. The method according to claim 27, wherein about 0.5 to about 3 mL of water per gram of Form A is added to the slurry.

29. The method according to any one of claims 18-28, wherein the slurry of step b is cooled to about 20-30 °C.

30. The method according to any one of claims 18-29, wherein the isolated selpercatinib Form B from step c is washed with a solvent comprising methanol, ACN, MTBE, or water.

31. The method according to claim 30, wherein the isolated selpercatinib Form B is washed with methanol until the isolated selpercatinib Form B contains less than 0.5 wt % DMSO.

32. A method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising: combining selpercatinib Form A and methanol to form a slurry, and stirring the slurry until >99 wt% of the Form A is converted to Form B, wherein the concentration of the selpercatinib Form A in the methanol is about 8 mL/g.

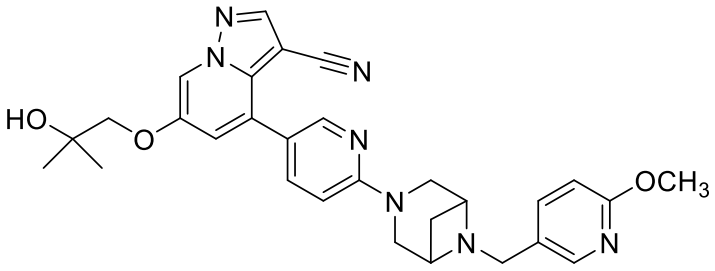
33. A method of converting selpercatinib Form A to selpercatinib Form B, the method comprising dissolving selpercatinib Form A in DMSO at about 60-80 °C to form a solution having a concentration of about 10-15 mL/g of DMSO per gram of Form A; cooling the solution to about 40-60 °C, adding water; optionally seeding the resulting mixture with Form B seed crystals; stirring the mixture; adding more water; heating the mixture to about 60-80 °C; cooling the mixture and isolating the Form B.

34. The method according to claim 33, wherein 5 wt% of Form B seed crystals are added to the mixture.

35. The method according to claim 33 or 34, wherein the first addition of water is about 0.1 mL/g of Form A to about 0.5 mL/g of Form A.

36. The method according to any one of claims 33-35, wherein the second addition of water is about 1.0-1.5 mL/g of Form A.

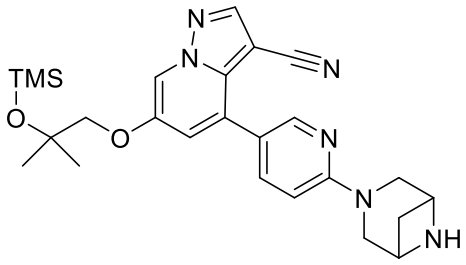
37. A process for preparing selpercatinib as polymorph Form B, of Formula I:



(Formula I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

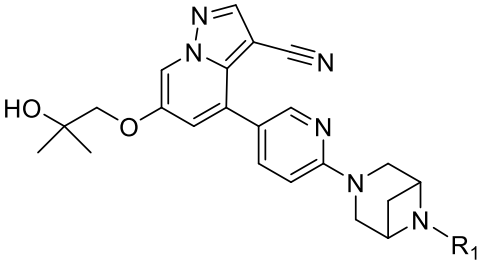
wherein the process comprises reacting a compound of the structure:



[3]

or a salt thereof, in a solvent with 6-methoxynicotinaldehyde in the presence of an acid and a reducing agent to prepare selpercatinib Form B or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein the solvent comprises anisole.

38. The process of claim 37, further comprising preparing compound of structure **[3]**, or a salt thereof, the process comprising reacting a compound of the structure



[12]

or a salt thereof, wherein R_1 is an amine protecting group, with a deprotecting agent to form the compound of structure **[3]** or a salt thereof.

39. The process of any one of claims 37-38, wherein the deprotecting agent is selected from the group consisting of trifluoroacetic acid, hydrochloric acid, hydrobromic acid, hydriodic acid, phosphoric acid, sulfuric acid, methanesulfonic

acid, p-toluene sulfonic acid, acetyl chloride, aluminum trichloride, and boron trifluoride.

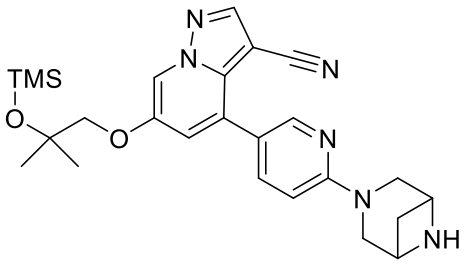
40. The process of any one of claims 37-39, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal borohydride, a hydrazine compound, citric acid, a citric acid salt, succinic acid, a succinic acid salt, ascorbic acid, and an ascorbic acid salt.

41. The process of any one of claims 37-40, wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium triacetoxyborohydride (STAB), sodium borohydride, and sodium cyanoborohydride.

42. The process of any one of claims 37-41, wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of formyl, acetyl, trifluoroacetyl, benzyl, benzoyl, carbamate, benzyloxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyl carbonyl, tert-butyloxycarbonyl (Boc), trimethylsilyl, 2-trimethylsilyl-ethanesulfonyl, trityl and substituted trityl groups, allyloxycarbonyl, 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl, nitroveratryloxycarbonyl, p-methoxybenzyl, and tosyl.

43. The process of any one of claims 37-42, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of pivalic acid and acetic acid.

44. A compound that is 4-[6-(3,6-diazabicyclo[3.1.1]heptan-3-yl)-3-pyridyl]-6-(2-methyl-2-trimethylsilyloxy-propoxy)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-3-carbonitrile, which has the structure **[3]**



[3]

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. The selpercatinib according to any of claims 1-3, or the pharmaceutical composition according to any of claims 4-7, for use in therapy.