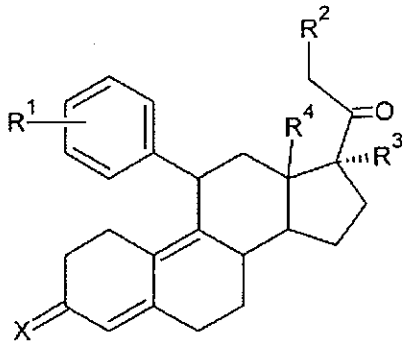
What is claimed is:

1. A compound having the general formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein: R^1 is selected from the group consisting of: $CH(OH)CH_3$; alkylsulfinyl; alkylsulfonyl; alkylthio; acyl; alkoxy; and acyloxy; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkoxy and acyloxy; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, and acyloxy; R^4 is hydrogen or alkyl; and X is selected from the group consisting of: =O, =N-OR5 wherein R5 is hydrogen or alkyl, OH, CH_2, $OAlk_1$, and $OCOAlk_2$, wherein Alk_1 and Alk_2 are C1-C8 alkyl or C7-C15 aralalkyl, with the proviso that if R^1 is at the para position and is $-OCH_3$, $-SCH_3$, -CHO, $-CH(OH)CH_3$, $-COCH_3$, $-O(CH_2)_2NC_4H_8$, or $-O(CH_2)_2NC_5H_{10}$, X is other than =O or =N-OR5 wherein R5 is hydrogen or alkyl and with the proviso that if R^2 is hydrogen, R^3 is hydroxy , R^4 is methyl, X is =O, and R^1 is at the meta position, R^1 is other than methoxy.

2. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R_1 is at the para position and is acyl or $CH(OH)CH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; and R^4 is alkyl or hydrogen.

3. A compound in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is $-COCH_3$, R^2 is methoxy, R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl and X is selected from the group consisting of OH, CH_2, $OAlk_1$, and $OCOAlk_2$, wherein Alk_1 and Alk_2 are C1-C8 alkyl or C7-C15 aralalkyl.

4. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the meta or ortho position and is acyl or $CH(OH)CH_3$; and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, acyloxy and hydrogen.

5. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; R^4 is alkyl; and X is =O.

6. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 5 wherein R^2 is methoxy and R^4 is methyl.

7. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 6 wherein R^3 is acetoxy.

8. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is hydrogen; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

9. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 and R^3 are acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

10. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the ortho, meta or para position and is alkylsulfinyl; R^2 is alkoxy; and R^4 is alkyl.

11. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 10 wherein R^1 is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is methoxy; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

12. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the para position.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

14. A method for producing an antiprogestational effect in a patient, comprising administering to said patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof in accordance with any of claims 1 to 12.

15. A method for treating a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 12.

16. A method for treating a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial

hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a composition in accordance with claim 13.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the composition is administered via a route selected from the group consisting of: vaginal, intrauterine and topical and wherein the effective amount is less than the effective amount when administered systemically.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the composition is in a form suitable for vaginal administration.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the composition is in the form of a vaginal suppository, a gel or a cream.

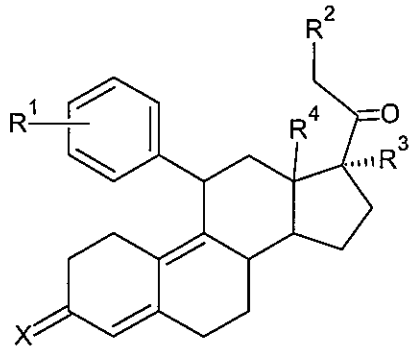
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the composition is administered locally to the vaginal mucosa of the patient.

21. The method of any one of claims 14 to 20 wherein the compound is administered at a dosage from 0.5mg/kg to 500mg/kg.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein the compound is administered daily at a dosage of about 12.5 to 50 mg.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound having the general formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein: R^1 is selected from the group consisting of: $CH(OH)CH_3$; $COCH_3$; and $SOCH_3$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkoxy and acyloxy; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, and acyloxy; R^4 is hydrogen or alkyl; and X is selected from the group consisting of: =O, =N-OR5 wherein R5 is hydrogen or alkyl, with the proviso that if R^1 is $CH(OH)CH_3$, or $-COCH_3$, R^1 is at the ortho or meta position and with the proviso that if R^2 is hydrogen, R^3 is hydroxy , R^4 is methyl, X is =O, and R^1 is at the meta position, R^1 is other than methoxy.

2. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the meta or ortho position and is $CH(OH)CH_3$; and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, acyloxy and hydrogen.

3. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; R^4 is alkyl; and X is =O.

4. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 3 wherein R^2 is methoxy and R^4 is methyl.

5. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^3 is acetoxy.

6. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is hydrogen; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

7. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 and R^3 are acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

8. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the ortho, meta or para position and is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; and R^4 is alkyl.

9. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 8 wherein R^1 is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is methoxy; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

10. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the para position.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, the pharmaceutical composition preferably in a form suitable for vaginal administration such as a vaginal suppository, gel or cream.

12. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in a method of treating a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer in a patient in need thereof.

13. The compound or salt thereof for use according to claim 12 wherein the compound is administered via a route selected from the group consisting of: vaginal, intrauterine and topical and wherein the effective amount is less than the effective amount when administered systemically.