

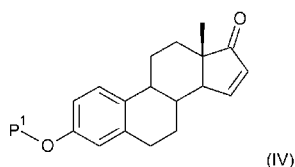
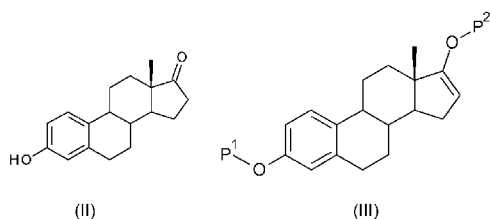
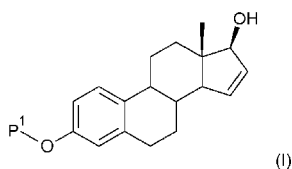


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[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ESTETROL INTERMEDIATES

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) said process comprising the steps of : a) reacting a compound of formula (II), with an acylating or a silylating agent to produce a compound of formula (III), wherein P¹ and P² are each independently a protecting group selected from R²-Si-R³R⁴, or R¹CO-, wherein R¹ is a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from fluoro or C₁₋₄alkyl; R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or phenyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from fluoro or C₁₋₄alkyl; b) reacting the compound of formula (III) in the presence of palladium acetate or a derivative thereof to produce compound of formula (IV); and c) reacting the compound of formula (IV) with a reducing agent to produce compound of formula (I).





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