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(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a novel process for the synthesis of 5–methoxy–2– [[(4–methoxy–3, 5–dimethyl–2– pyridinyl)methyl] sulfinyl]–1H– benzimidazole, known under the generic name omeprazole. Moreover, the present invention also relates to manufacture of a pharmaceutical preparation thereof and its use in medicine. The novel process for the preparation of omeprazole, comprises the step of oxidizing 5–methoxy–2– [[(4–methoxy–3, 5–dimethyl–2– pyridinyl) methyl]thio]–1H– benzimidazole in an organic solvent with an oxidizing agent in the presence of a titanium complex and optionally in the presence of a base.