*NO COVER LETTER

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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 6 : C07K 5/06, C07D 471/04, 521/00, A61K 38/05, 31/395 — A1

(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/24369

(43) International Publication Date: 10 July 1997 (10.07.97)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/IB96/01353

(22) International Filing Date: 4 December 1996 (04.12.96)

(30) Priority Data:
60/009,469 28 December 1995 (28.12.95) US

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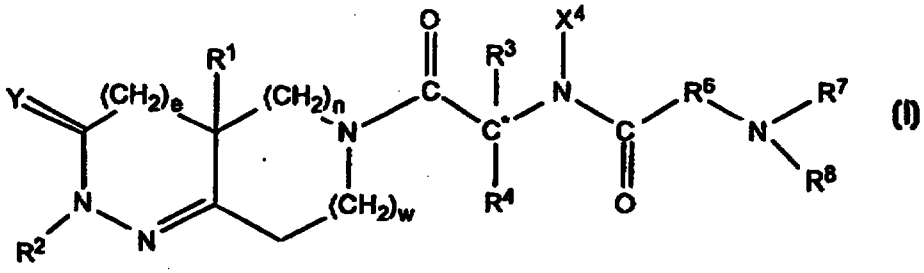
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(81) Designated States: AU, BG, BR, BY, CA, CN, CZ, HU, IL, IS, JP, KR, KZ, LK, LV, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, RU, SG, SI, SK, TR, UA, US, UZ, VN; European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(54) Title: GROWTH-HORMONE SECRETAGOGUES



(I)

(57) Abstract

This invention is directed to compounds of formula (I) and the pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof, where the substituents are as defined in the Specification, which are growth hormone secretagogues and which increase the level of endogenous growth hormone. The compounds of this invention are useful for the treatment and prevention of osteoporosis, congestive heart failure, frailty associated with aging, obesity; accelerating bone fracture repair, attenuating protein catabolic response after a major operation, reducing cachexia and protein loss due to chronic illness, accelerating wound healing, or accelerating the recovery of burn patients or patients having undergone major surgery; improving muscle strength, mobility, maintenance of skin thickness, metabolic homeostasis or renal homeostasis. The compounds of the present invention are also useful in treating osteoporosis when used in combination with: a bisphosphonate compound such as alendronate; estrogen, premarin, and optionally progesterone; an estrogen agonist or antagonist; or calcitonin, and pharmaceutical compositions useful therefor. Further, the present invention is directed to pharmaceutical compositions useful for increasing the endogenous production or release of growth hormone in a human or other animal which comprises an effective amount of a compound of the present invention and a growth hormone secretagogue selected from GHRP-6, Hexarelin, GHRP-1, growth hormone releasing factor (GRF), IGF-1, IGF-2 or B-HT920. The invention is also directed to intermediates useful in the preparation of compounds of formula (I).