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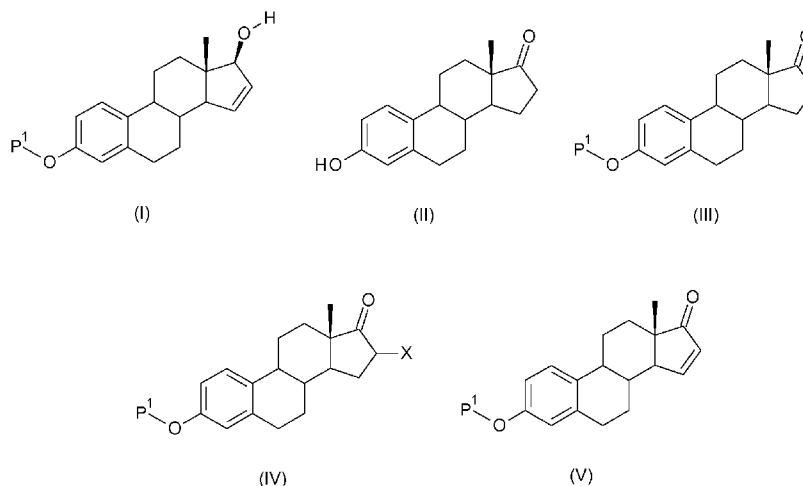
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ESTETROL INTERMEDIATES



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) comprising the steps of a) reacting a compound of formula (II) with a silylating or an acylating agent to produce compound of formula (III), wherein P¹ is a protecting group selected from R²-Si-R³R⁴ or R¹CO-, 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) halogenation or sulfinylation of the compound of formula (III) to produce a compound of formula (IV); wherein X is halo, or -O-SO-R⁵, and R⁵ is a group selected from C₆₋₁₀aryl or heteroaryl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from chloro or C₁₋₄alkyl; c) dehalogenation or desulfinylation of the compound of formula (IV) to produce compound of formula (V); and d) reacting the compound of formula (V) with a reducing agent to produce compound of formula (I).

