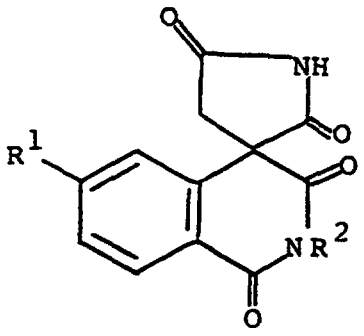
ABSTRACT

PROCESS AND INTERMEDIATE FOR THE PREPARATION OF ISOQUINOLINE DERIVATIVES

The invention presents a process for the preparation of spiro[isoquinoline-4(1H),3'-pyrrolidine]-1,2',3,5'(2H)-tetrones which are useful as aldose reductase inhibitors and have the formula II



(II)

where R^1 is hydrogen or halogen and R^2 is methyl or dihalogen-substituted benzyl. The process comprises a three step method from 1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-1,3-dioxo-4-isoquinolinecarboxylic acid esters via the 4-(cyanomethyl) and 4-(2-amino-2-oxoethyl) derivatives thereof.