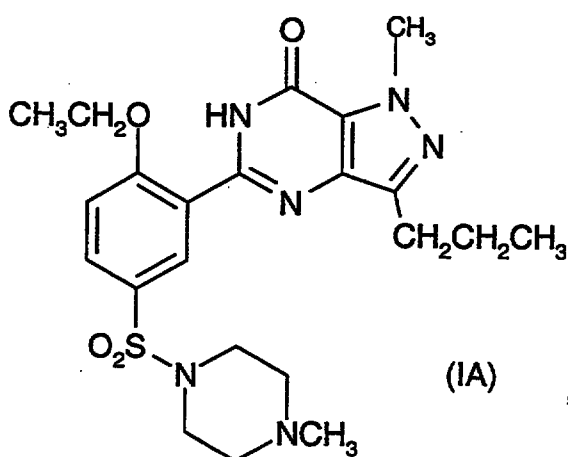


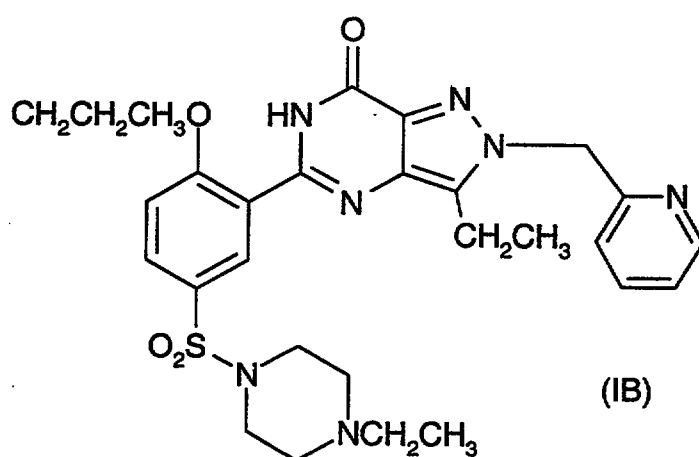
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ABSTRACT

A process is provided for the preparation of a compound of formulae (IA) (sildenafil/ Viagra™) and (IB)

5



(IA)



(IB)

10

comprising reacting a compound of formula (IIA) and (IIB) respectively in the
15 presence of ^-OR , wherein R in the case of formation of compound (IA) is CH_2CH_3
and R in the case of formation of compound (IB) is $CH_2CH_2CH_3$, where X is a
leaving group:

