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(71) Applicants *(for all designated States except US)*: **H. LUNDBECK A/S** [DK/DK]; Ottiliavej 9, DK-2500 Valby-Copenhagen (DK). **PETERSEN, Hans** [DK/DK]; Guldagervej 11, DK-2720 Vanløse (DK).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **ROCK, Michael, Harold** [GB/DK]; Risbjergvej 28, DK-2650 Hvidovre (DK). **AHMADIAN, Haleh** [DK/DK]; Digeparken 12, DK-2680 Solrød Strand (DK).

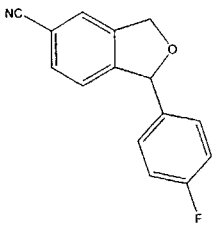
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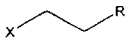
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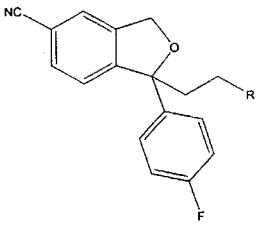
(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(I)



(II)



(III)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for the preparation of citalopram comprising reaction a compound of formula (I) with a compound having formula (II) wherein X is a suitable leaving group and R is $-CH_2-O-Pg$, $-CH_2-NPg_1Pg_2$, $-CO-N(CH_3)_2$, $-CH(OR^1)(OR^2)$, $-C(OR^4)(OR^5)(OR^6)$, $-COOR^3$, $-CH_2-CO-NH_2$, $-CH=CHR^7$ and $-CONHR^8$ wherein Pg is a protection group for an alcohol group, Pg_1 and Pg_2 are protection groups for an amino group, R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and optionally alkyl substituted aryl or aralkyl groups or R^1 and R^2 together form a chain of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, each of R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and optionally alkyl substituted aryl or aralkyl and R^8 is hydrogen or methyl; to form a compound of formula (III) wherein R is as defined above; followed by conversion of the group R to form a dimethylaminomethyl group and isolation of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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