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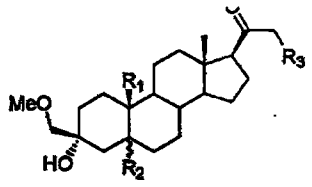

(I)

(57) Abstract

This invention relates to compounds having Formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, wherein; R_1 is H or methyl; R_2 is 5α– or 5β– H; R_3 is an optionally substituted *N*–attached heteroaryl group or a group –X–R_4; R_4 is an optionally substituted carbon–attached heteroaryl group; and X is O, S or N. The invention also is directed to the use of 3α– hydroxy–3β–methoxymethyl–substituted steroids as sedative/hypnotics and for inducing anesthesia.