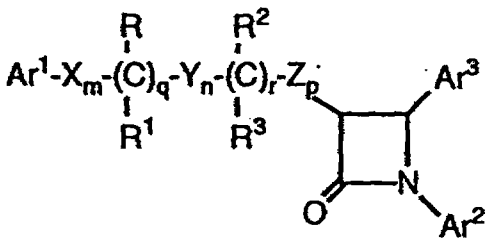
ABSTRACT

HYDROXY-SUBSTITUED AZETIDINONE COMPOUNDS USEFUL AS HYPOCHOLESTEROLEMIC AGENTS

Hydroxy-substituted azetidinone hypocholesterolemic agents of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

Ar^1 and Ar^2 are aryl or R^4-substituted aryl;

Ar^3 is aryl or R^5-substituted aryl;

X, Y and Z are-CH_2-, -CH(lower alkyl)- or -C(dilower alkyl)-;

R and R^2 are -OR^6, -$O(CO)R^6$, -$O(CO)OR^9$ or -$O(CO)NR^6R^7$;

R^1 and R^3 are H or lower alkyl;

q is 0 or 1; r is 0 or 1; m, n and p are 0-4; provided that at least one of q and r is 1, and the sum of m, n, p, q and r is 1-6; and provided that when p is 0 and r is 1, the sum of m, q and n is 1-5;

R^4 is selected from lower alkyl, R^5, -CF_3, -CN, -NO_2 and halogen;

R^5 is selected from -OR^6, -$O(CO)R^6$, -$O(CO)OR^9$, -$O(CH_2)_{1-5}OR^6$, -$O(CO)NR^6R^7$, -NR^6R^7, -$NR^6(CO)R^7$, -$NR^6(CO)OR^9$, -$NR^6(CO)NR^7R^8$, -$NR^6SO_2R^9$, -$COOR^6$, -$CONR^6R^7$, -COR^6, -$SO_2NR^6R^7$, $S(O)_{0-2}R^9$, -$O(CH_2)_{1-10}$-$COOR^6$, -$O(CH_2)_{1-10}CONR^6R^7$, -(lower alkylene)$COOR^6$ and -CH=CH-$COOR^6$;

R^6, R^7 and R^8 are H, lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

R^9 is lower alkyl, aryl or aryl-substituted lower alkyl;

are disclosed, as well as a method of lowering serum cholesterol by administering said compounds, alone or in combination with a cholesterol biosynthesis inhibitor, pharmaceutical compositions containing them, and a process for preparing them.