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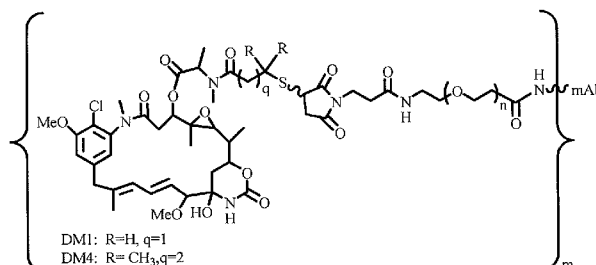
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(54) Title: POTENT CONJUGATES AND HYDROPHILIC LINKERS

FIGURE 1. Structural representation of representative PEG-containing non-cleavable

thiosuccinimyl-linked conjugates of the present invention

(mAb = monoclonal antibody; n = 1-2000; m = 2-15)



(57) **Abstract:** Linkers for binding drugs to cell binding agents are modified to hydrophilic linkers by incorporating a polyethylene glycol spacer. The potency or the efficacy of the cell-binding agent-drug conjugates is surprisingly enhanced several folds in a variety of cancer cell types, including those expressing a low number of antigens on the cell surface or cancer cells that are resistant to treatment. A method for preparing maytansinoids bearing a thioether moiety and a reactive group which allows the maytansinoid to be linked to a cell-binding agent in essentially a single step is also provided.