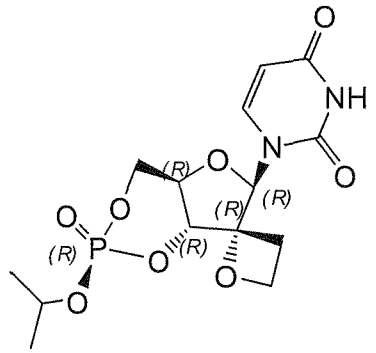
In one embodiment of the present disclosure, R^9 is C_1-C_6alkyl, phenyl, C_3-C_7cycloalkyl or C_1-C_3alkyl substituted with 1 substituent selected from phenyl, C_3-C_6cycloalkyl, hydroxy, or C_1-C_6alkoxy. In another embodiment of the present disclosure, R^9 in Formula I or Ia is C_1-C_6alkyl or C_1-C_2alkyl substituted with phenyl C_1-C_2alkoxy or C_3-C_6cycloalkyl. In a more preferred embodiment, R^9 is C_2-C_4alkyl and in a most preferred embodiment, R^9 is *i*-propyl.

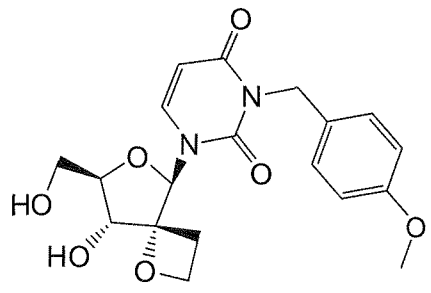
A preferred embodiment according to the disclosure is a compound according to formula Ib:



(Ib)

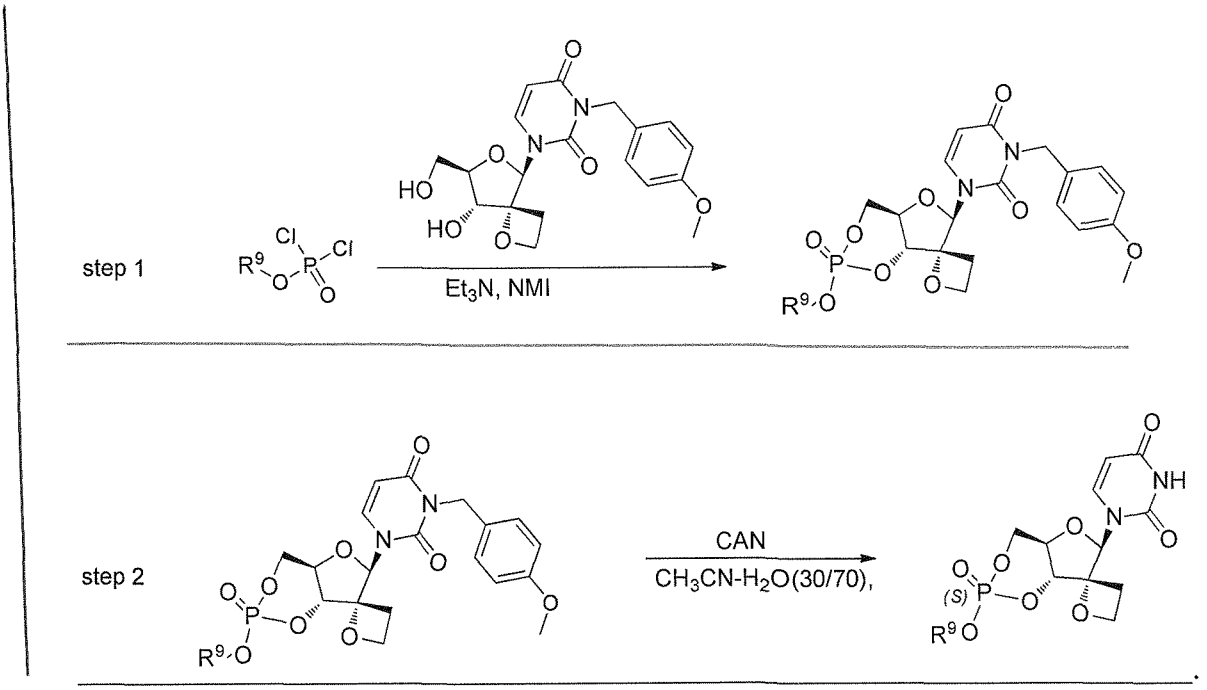
including any pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and the use of compound (V) in the synthesis of a compound according to Formula I, Ia or Ib.

In a second aspect, the disclosure further relates to a compound of formula V:

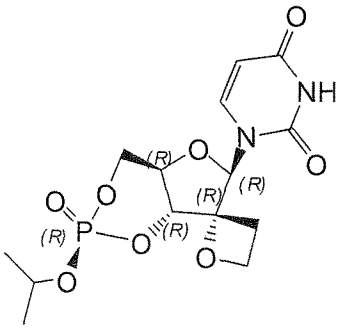


(V)

including any pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof. In a third aspect, the disclosure relates to the use of compound (V) in the synthesis of a compound according to Formula I, Ia or Ib according to the following 2 steps:

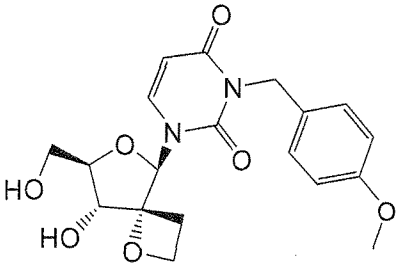


Ina fourth aspect, the disclosure relates to a compound of formula VI:



(Ib)

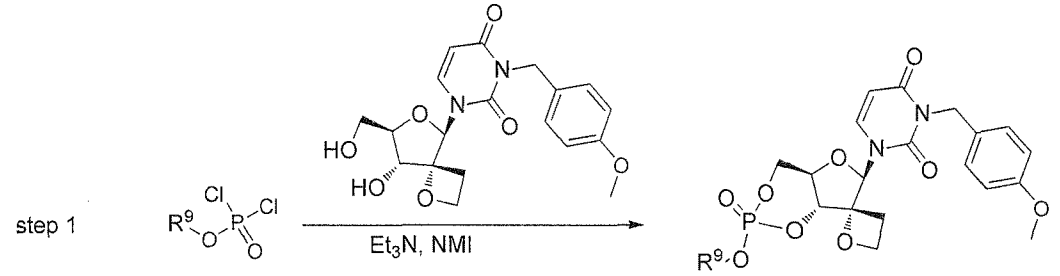
7. A compound of formula V:

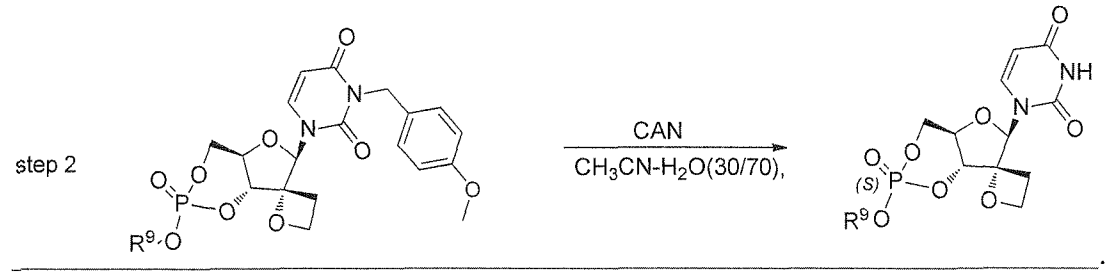


(V)

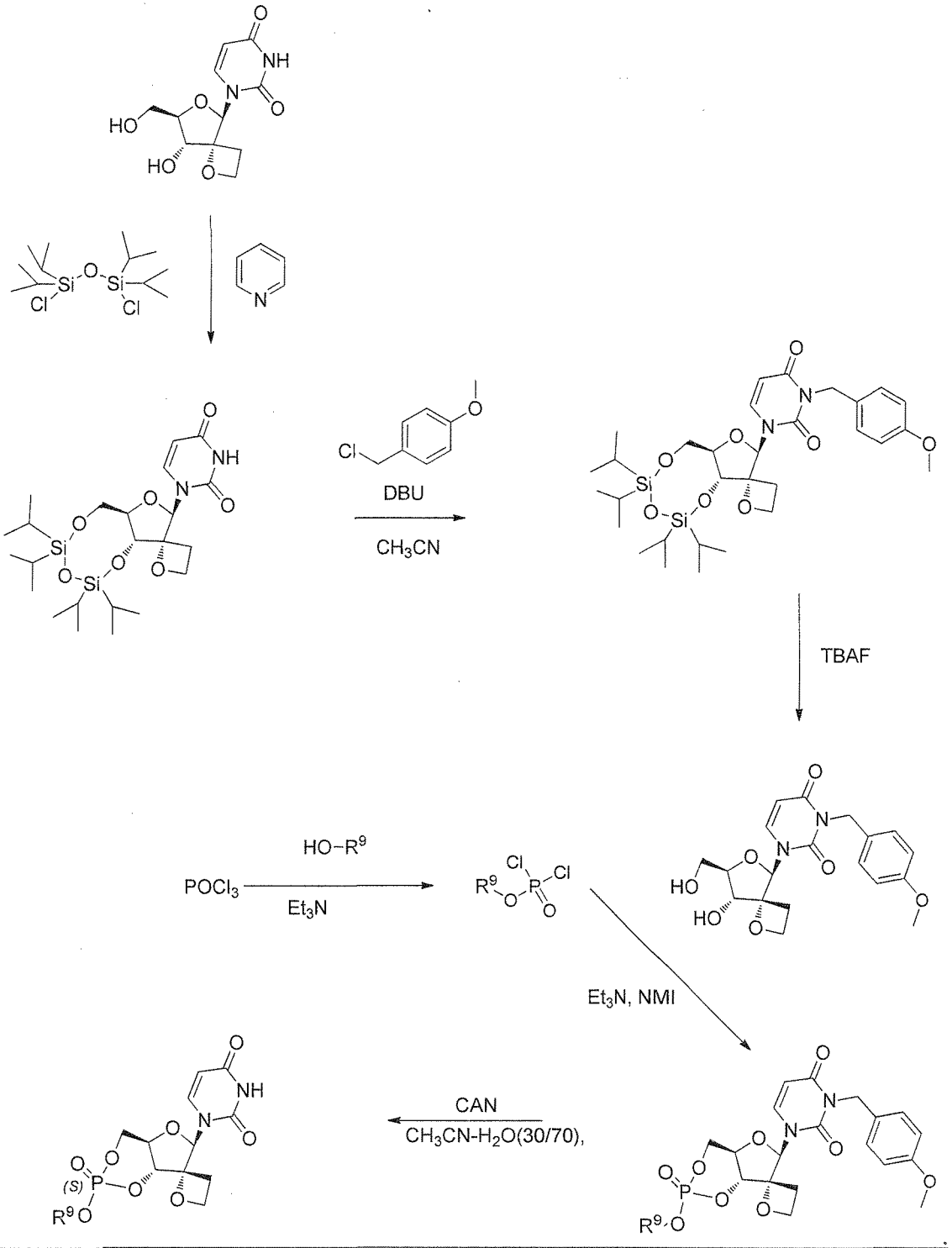
including pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

8. The use of compound (V) in the synthesis of a compound according to any one of claims 1-6 according to the following 2 steps:





9. The use of compound (V) according to claim 8 in the following process:



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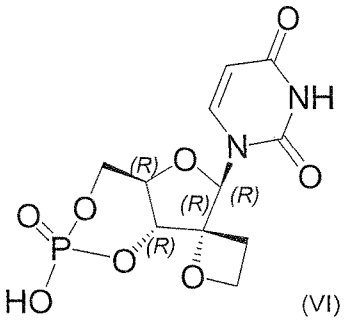
~~9~~10.A compound of formula VI:



(VI)

including any stereochemical form and/or pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

~~10~~11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any of claims 1 to 6, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

~~11~~12. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 or claim ~~9~~10 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~10~~11, for use as a medicament.

~~12~~13. A compound according to any of claims 1 to 6 or claim ~~9~~10, or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim ~~9~~11, for use in the prevention or treatment of an HCV infection in a mammal.

~~13~~14. A product containing (a) a compound of formula I as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 or claim ~~9~~10, and (b) another HCV inhibitor, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of HCV infections.