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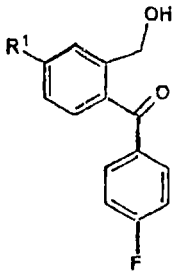
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(IV)



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(57) Abstract

A method for the preparation of citalopram is described comprising reduction of the oxo group of a compound of formula (IV), wherein R^1 is CN, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl or C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, ring closure of the resulting hydroxy compound thereby obtaining the corresponding 1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydroisobenzofuran, then if R^1 is cyano using it directly in the next step and if R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl or C_{1-6} alkylaminocarbonyl, conversion of the compound to the corresponding compound wherein R^1 is cyano; and alkylation of the resulting 5-cyano compound with 3-dimethyl-aminopropylhalogenid in basic conditions thereby obtaining citalopram.