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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP96/02122 (22) International Filing Date: 9 May 1996 (09.05.96) (30) Priority Data: MI95A000957 12 May 1995 (12.05.95) IT (71) Applicant (for all designated States except IT): RECORDATI S.A., CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY [CH/CH]; Corso S. Gottardo 54, CH-6830 Chiasso (CH). (71) Applicant (for IT only): RECORDATI INDUSTRIA CHIMICA E FARMACEUTICA S.P.A. [IT/IT]; Via Civitali, 1, I-20148 Milano (IT). (72) Inventors: LEONARDI, Amedeo; Via Poliziano, 16, I-20154 Milano (IT). MOTTA, Gianni; Via Ungaretti, 8/2, I-20030 Barlassina (IT). (74) Agent: SERJEANTS; 25 The Crescent, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RX (GB).	(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KR, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>	
(54) Title: A PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF LERCANIDIPINE HYDROCHLORIDE (57) Abstract A process for the preparation of methyl 1,1,N-trimethyl-N-(3,3-diphenyl-propyl)-2-aminoethyl 1,4-dihydro-2,6-dimethyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-pyridine-3,5-dicarboxylate (lercanidipine) of formula I comprises reacting an acid halide of 2,6-dimethyl-5-methoxycarbonyl-4-(3-nitrophenyl)-1,4-dihydropyridine-3-carboxylic acid with 2,N-dimethyl-N-(3,3-diphenylpropyl)-1-amino-2-propanol in an aprotic solvent. The product can be isolated by industrially applicable crystallization techniques and is obtained in high yield as its anhydrous hydrochloride, a form which possesses high stability and low hygroscopicity. (I)		