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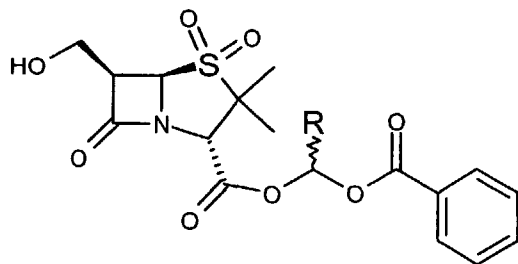
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(54) Title: BETA-LACTAMASE INHIBITOR PRODRUG



(I)

(57) **Abstract:** Prodrugs of 6-B-hydroxymethylpenicillanic acid sulfone having the structure wherein R is H or methyl, and solvates thereof, are disclosed. Also disclosed are pharmaceutical compositions comprising a prodrug of the present invention, or a solvate thereof, an optional beta-lactam antibiotic and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Further disclosed is a method for increasing the therapeutic effectiveness of a beta-lactam antibiotic in a mammal by administering an effective amount of a betalactam antibiotic and an effectiveness-increasing amount of

a prodrug of the present invention, or a solvate thereof. Additionally disclosed is a method for treating a bacterial infection in a mammal by administering a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of the present invention to a mammal in need thereof.

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