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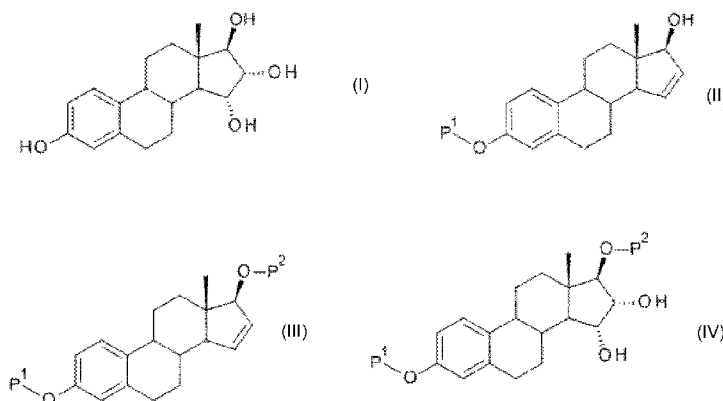
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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ESTETROL



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), hydrates or solvates thereof; (I) said process comprising the steps of a) reacting a compound of formula (II), with an acylating or a silylating agent to produce a compound of formula (III), (II) (III) wherein P¹ is a protecting group selected from R¹CO-, or R²Si(R³)(R⁴)-, P² is a protecting group selected from (R⁶R⁵R⁷)C-CO-, or (R²)Si(R³)(R⁴)-, wherein R¹ is a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from fluoro or C₁₋₄alkyl; R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or phenyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from fluoro or C₁₋₄alkyl; R⁵ is a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or phenyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from fluoro or C₁₋₄alkyl; R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen or a group selected from C₁₋₆alkyl or phenyl, each group being optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from permanganate salt, osmium oxide, hydrogen peroxide, or iodine and silver acetate to produce compound of formula (IV); and (IV) b) deprotecting the compound of formula (IV) to produce compound of formula (I).

