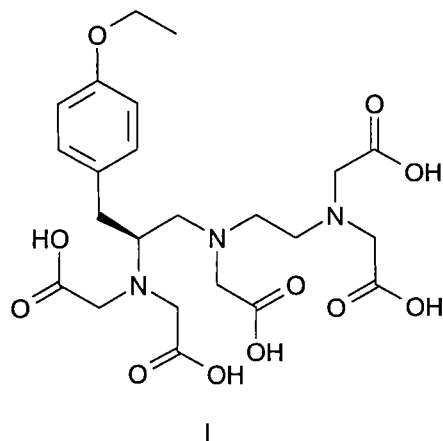


Abstract

The invention relates to a method for producing crystalline 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid of the formula I



by saponifying 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(tert-butoxycarbonylmethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid di-tert-butyl ester of the formula II in an aqueous alkali metal hydroxide solution and using 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid of the formula I for producing the gadolinium complex of 3,6,9-triaza-3,6,9-tris(carboxymethyl)-4-(4-ethoxybenzyl)undecanedioic acid [(Gd-EOB-DTPA) = Primovist®].



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