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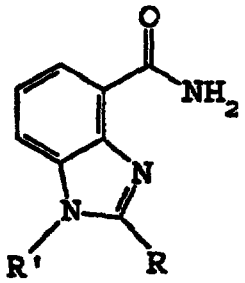
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(54) Title: BENZIMIDAZOLE COMPOUNDS



(I)

(57) Abstract

A range is disclosed of benzimidazole-4-carboxamide compounds (I) which can act as potent inhibitors of the DNA repair enzyme poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase or PARP enzyme (EC 2.4.2.30), and which thereby can provide useful therapeutic compounds for use in conjunction with DNA-damaging cytotoxic drugs or radiotherapy to potentiate the effects of the latter. In formula (I), R and R' may each be selected independently from hydrogen, alkyl, hydroxyalkyl (e.g. CH_2CH_2OH), acyl (e.g. acetyl or benzoyl) or an optionally substituted aryl (e.g. phenyl) or aralkyl (e.g. benzyl or carboxybenzyl) group. R is generally a substituted phenyl group in the most preferred compounds. The compounds may also be used in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable salts or pro-drugs.