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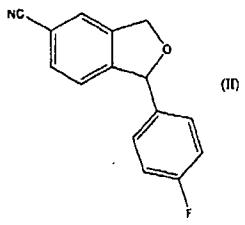
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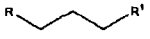
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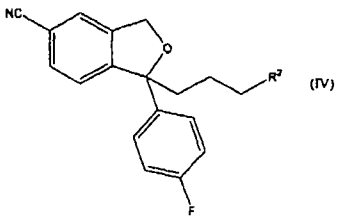
(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(II)



(III)



(IV)

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for the preparation of citalopram comprising reaction of a compound of formula (II) with a compound having the formula (III) wherein R is halogen or -O-SO_2-X, wherein X is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or optionally alkyl substituted aryl or aralkyl, and R^1 is dimethylamino, halogen, -O-SO_2-X wherein X is as defined above, provided that R is not halogen when R^1 is dimethylamino; and if R^1 is dimethylamino followed by isolation of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof, and if R^1 is halogen or -O-SO_2-X, wherein X is as defined above, followed by conversion of the resulting compound of formula wherein R^2 is halogen or a group of formula -O-SO_2-X wherein X is as defined above to citalopram, followed by isolation of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

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