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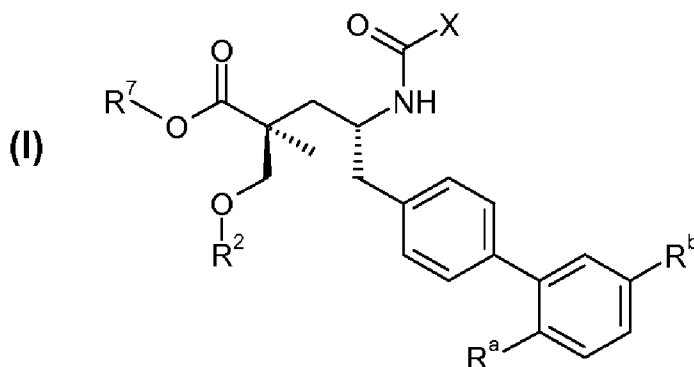
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(57) Abstract: In one aspect, the invention relates to compounds having the formula (I): where X, R^a, R^b, R², and R⁷ are as defined in the specification, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. These compounds are prodrugs of compounds having neprilysin inhibition activity. In another aspect, the invention relates to pharmaceutical compositions comprising these compounds; methods of using these compounds; and processes and intermediates for preparing these compounds.