

METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF PURE CITALPRAM**Abstract**

5 The present invention relates to a process for the preparation and purification of
citalopram (I) in which a compound of Formula (II) wherein Z is iodo, bromo, chloro, or
CF₃-(CF₂)_n-SO₂-O-, n being 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8, is subjected to a cyanide exchange
reaction with a cyanide source; the resultant crude citalopram product is optionally
subjected to some initial purification and subsequently treated with an amide or an amide-
10 like group forming agent; the reaction mixture is then subjected to an acid/base wash and/or
crystallisation and recrystallisation of citalopram in order to remove the amides formed
from the crude citalopram mixture; and the resulting citalopram product is optionally
further purified, worked up and isolated as the base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt
thereof.