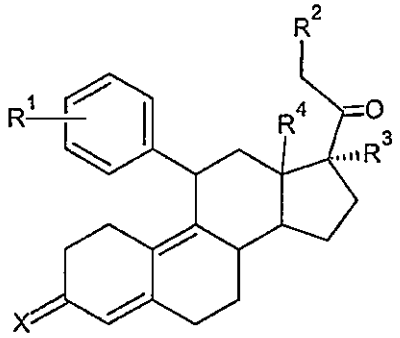
CLAIMS:

1. A compound having the general formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein: R^1 is selected from the group consisting of: $CH(OH)CH_3$; $COCH_3$; and $SOCH_3$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkoxy and acyloxy; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, and acyloxy; R^4 is hydrogen or alkyl; and X is selected from the group consisting of: =O, =N-OR5 wherein R5 is hydrogen or alkyl, with the proviso that if R^1 is $CH(OH)CH_3$, or $-COCH_3$, R^1 is at the ortho or meta position and with the proviso that if R^2 is hydrogen, R^3 is hydroxy , R^4 is methyl, X is =O, and R^1 is at the meta position, R^1 is other than methoxy.

2. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the meta or ortho position and is $CH(OH)CH_3$; and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, acyloxy and hydrogen.

3. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; R^4 is alkyl; and X is =O.

4. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 3 wherein R^2 is methoxy and R^4 is methyl.

5. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^3 is acetoxy.

6. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is hydrogen; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

7. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 and R^3 are acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

8. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the ortho, meta or para position and is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; and R^4 is alkyl.

9. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 8 wherein R^1 is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is methoxy; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

10. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the para position.

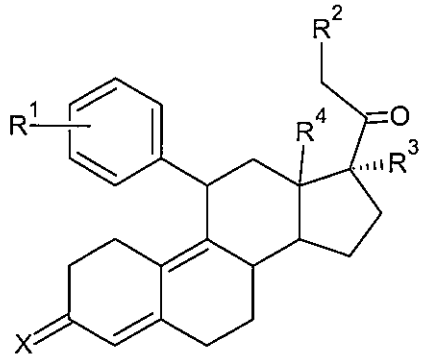
11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, the pharmaceutical composition preferably in a form suitable for vaginal administration such as a vaginal suppository, gel or cream.

12. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in a method of treating a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer in a patient in need thereof.

13. The compound or salt thereof for use according to claim 12 wherein the compound is administered via a route selected from the group consisting of: vaginal, intrauterine and topical and wherein the effective amount is less than the effective amount when administered systemically.

CLAIMS:

1. A compound having the general formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein: R^1 is selected from the group consisting of: $CH(OH)CH_3$; $COCH_3$; SO_2CH_3 and $SOCH_3$; R^2 is selected from the group consisting of: hydrogen, alkoxy and acyloxy; R^3 is selected from the group consisting of: alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, and acyloxy; R^4 is hydrogen or alkyl; and X is selected from the group consisting of: =O, =N-OR5 wherein R5 is hydrogen or alkyl, with the proviso that if R^1 is $CH(OH)CH_3$, or $-COCH_3$, R^1 is at the ortho or meta position.

2. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the meta or ortho position and is $CH(OH)CH_3$; and R^2 is selected from the group consisting of alkoxy, acyloxy and hydrogen.

3. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; R^4 is alkyl; and X is =O.

4. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 3 wherein R^2 is methoxy and R^4 is methyl.

5. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 4 wherein R^3 is acetoxy.

6. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 is hydrogen; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

7. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 2 wherein R^1 is at the meta position and is $-COCH_3$; R^2 and R^3 are acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

8. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the ortho, meta or para position and is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is alkoxy; and R^4 is alkyl.

9. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 8 wherein R^1 is $-SOCH_3$; R^2 is methoxy; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

10. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the para position.

11. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, the pharmaceutical composition preferably in a form suitable for vaginal administration such as a vaginal suppository, gel or cream.

12. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 10 for use in treating a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer in a patient in need thereof.

13. The compound or salt thereof for use according to claim 12 wherein the compound is to be administered via a route selected from the group consisting of: vaginal, intrauterine and topical and wherein the effective amount is less than the effective amount when administered systemically.

14. Use of a compound or salt thereof in accordance with any one of claims 1 to 10 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic treatment of a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer in a patient in need thereof.

15. A compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 1 wherein R^1 is at the para position and is $-SO_2CH_3$; R^2 is hydrogen; R^3 is acetoxy; R^4 is methyl; and X is =O.

16. Use of a compound or salt thereof in accordance with claim 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapeutic treatment of a progesterone-dependent condition selected from the group consisting of endometriosis and pain associated therewith, adenomyosis, endometriomas of the ovary, dysmenorrhea, uterine fibroids, endometrial hyperproliferation, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer in a patient in need thereof.