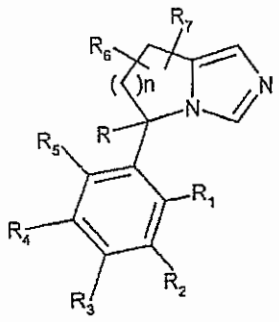
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

n is 1, or 2, or 3;

R is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, or (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl and (C_1-C_7) alkenyl being optionally substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of –O-R_8 and –N(R_8)(R_9), wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, acyl, aryl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl; or

R is –C(O)O-R_{10}, or –C(O)N(R_{11})(R_{12}), wherein R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-(C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, and aryl, wherein R_{11} and R_{12} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, H_2N–, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl, –

$C(O)OR_{10}$, and $-N(R_{13})(R_{14})$, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alky–, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, said R_{13} and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkoxy, aryl and cyano,

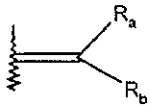
R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, acyloxy, aryl, heretoaryl and $-C(O)OR_{10}$, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alk--, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, with the proviso that no more than three of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are simultaneously hydrogen;

R_{13} and R_{14} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R and R_1 taken together optionally form a 5-6-membered ring containing 0 or 1 heteroatom selected from O, N, or S;

R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, phenyl, or benzyl, wherein phenyl and benzyl are optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl;

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they optionally form a moiety (A) represented by the following structure:



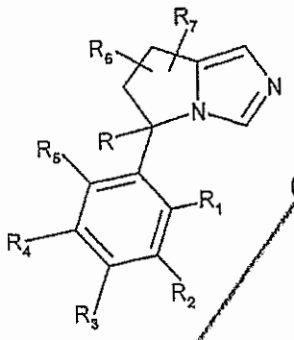
(A)

wherein R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, acyl, $-COOR_{15}$ or $-COR_{15}$, said R_{15} being hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, aryl, or $-NH_2$; or

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they taken together with said carbon atom optionally form a 3-8-membered ring; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers.

2. A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R is hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl, or $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkenyl, said $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl and $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkenyl being optionally substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of $-O\text{-}R_8$ and $-N(R_8)(R_9)$, wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl, acyl, aryl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkoxy and $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl; or

R is $-C(O)O\text{-}R_{10}$, or $-C(O)N(R_{11})(R_{12})$, wherein R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_8)$ cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ haloalkyl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_7)$ alkyl, and aryl, wherein R_{11} and R_{12} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, H_2N–, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl, –

C(O)OR_{10}, and –N(R_{13})(R_{14}), said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alky–, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, said R_{13} and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_7)

haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkoxy, aryl and cyano;

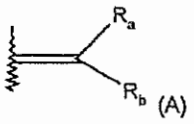
R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl and –C(O)OR_{10}, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alk–, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, with the proviso that no more than three of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are simultaneously hydrogen;

R_{13} and R_{14} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R and R_1 taken together optionally form a 5-6-membered ring containing 0 or 1 heteroatom selected from O, N, or S;

R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, phenyl, or benzyl, wherein phenyl and benzyl are optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl;

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they optionally form a moiety (A) represented by the following structure:



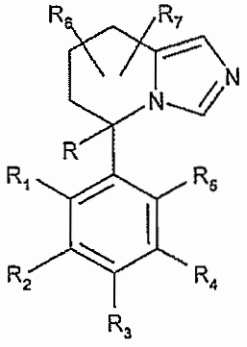
(A)

wherein R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, acyl, --$COOR_{15}$ or $-COR_{15}$, said R_{15} being hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, aryl, or $-NH_2$; or

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they taken together with said carbon atom optionally form a 3-8-membered ring; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers.

3. A compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein

R is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, or (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl and (C_1-C_7) alkenyl being optionally substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of –O-R_8 and –N(R_8)(R_9), wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, acyl, aryl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl; or

R is –C(O)O-R_{10}, or --C(O)N(R_{11})(R_{12}), wherein R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-(C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, and aryl, wherein R_{11} and R_{12} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, H_2N–, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl, –C(O)OR_{10}, and –N(R_{13})(R_{14}), said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alky–, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, said R_{13} and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkoxy, aryl and cyano;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl and –C(O)OR_{10}, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy-

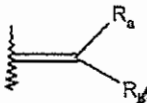
(C_1-C_7) alk--, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, with the proviso that no more than three of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are simultaneously hydrogen;

R_{13} and R_{14} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R and R_1 taken together optionally form a 5-6-membered ring containing 0 or 1 heteroatom selected from O, N, or S;

R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, phenyl, or benzyl, wherein phenyl and benzyl are optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl;

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they optionally form a moiety (A) represented by the following structure:



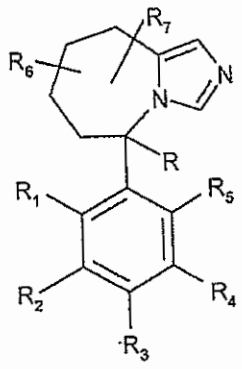
(A)

wherein R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, acyl, --$COOR_{15}$ or $-COR_{15}$, said R_{15} being hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, aryl, or $-NH_2$; or

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they taken together with said carbon atom optionally form a 3-8-membered ring; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers.

4. A compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein

R is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, or (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl and (C_1-C_7) alkenyl being optionally substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of –O-R_8 and –N(R_8)(R_9), wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, acyl, aryl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl; or

R is –C(O)O-R_{10}, or --C(O)N(R_{11})(R_{12}), wherein R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-(C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, and aryl, wherein R_{11} and R_{12} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, H_2N--, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl, –

$C(O)OR_{10}$, and $-N(R_{13})(R_{14})$, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alky—, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, said R_{13} and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkoxy, aryl and cyano;

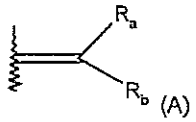
R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, cyano, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl and $-C(O)OR_{10}$, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_8) alkenyl, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alk--, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, with the proviso that no more than three of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 and R_5 are simultaneously hydrogen;

R_{13} and R_{14} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R and R_1 taken together optionally form a 5-6-membered ring containing 0 or 1 heteroatom selected from O, N, or S;

R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, phenyl, or benzyl, wherein phenyl and benzyl are optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl;

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they optionally form a moiety (A) represented by the following structure:



(A)

wherein R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, acyl, --$COOR_{15}$ or $-COR_{15}$, said R_{15} being hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, aryl, or $-NH_2$; or

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they taken together with said carbon atom optionally form a 3-8-membered ring; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers.

5. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 as a medicament.

6. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a disorder or a disease mediated by aldosterone synthase, or responsive to the inhibition of aldosterone synthase activity.

7. Use according to claim 6, wherein the disorder or disease is characterized by an abnormal activity of aldosterone synthase.

8. Use according to claim 6, wherein the disorder or the disease is selected from hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, renal failure, in particular, chronic renal failure, restenosis, atherosclerosis, syndrome X, obesity, nephropathy, post-myocardial infarction, coronary heart diseases, inflammation, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis such as cardiac or myocardiac fibrosis and remodeling following hypertension and endothelial dysfunction.

9. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for treating a disorder or a disease mediated by aromatase or responsive to inhibition of aromatase activity..

10. Use according to claim 9, wherein the disorder or disease is characterized by an abnormal activity of aromatase.

11. Use according to claim 9, wherein the disorder or disease is a estrogen-dependent disorder or disease selected from gynecomastia, osteoporosis, prostate cancer, endometriosis, uterine fibroids, dysfunctional uterine bleeding, endometrial hyperplasia, polycystic ovarian disease, infertility, fibrocystic breast disease, breast cancer and fibrocystic mastopathy.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and one or two or more therapeutically active agents selected from angiotensin II receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, HMG-Co-A reductase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) Inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; calcium channel blocker (CCB) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; dual angiotensin converting enzyme/neutral endopeptidase (ACE/NEP) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; endothelin antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; renin inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; diuretic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; an ApoA-I mimic; an anti-diabetic agent; an obesity-reducing agent; an aldosterone receptor blocker; an endothelin receptor blocker; a CETP inhibitor; an inhibitor of Na-K-ATPase membrane pump; a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker or an alpha-adrenergic receptor blocker; a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) inhibitor; and an inotropic agent.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and one or two or more therapeutically active agents selected from an antiestrogen; an anti-androgen; a gonadorelin agonist; a topoisomerase I inhibitor; a topoisomerase II inhibitor; a microtubule active agent; an alkylating agent; an anti-neoplastic anti-metabolite; a platin compound; a compound targeting/decreasing a protein or lipid kinase activity or a protein or lipid phosphatase activity, a anti-angiogenic compound; a compound which induces cell differentiation processes; monoclonal antibodies; a cyclooxygenase inhibitor; a bisphosphonate; a heparanase inhibitor; a biological response modifier; an inhibitor of Ras oncogenic isoforms; a telomerase inhibitor; a protease inhibitor, a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, a methionine aminopeptidase inhibitor; a proteasome inhibitor; agents which target, decrease or inhibit the activity of Flt-3; an HSP90 inhibitor; antiproliferative antibodies; an HDAC inhibitor; a compound which targets, decreases or inhibits the activity/function of serine/theronine mTOR kinase; a somatostatin receptor antagonist; an anti-leukemic compound; tumor cell damaging approaches; an EDG binder; a ribonucleotide reductase inhibitor; an S-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase inhibitor; a monoclonal antibody of VEGF or VEGFR; an Angiostatic steroid; an implant containing corticosteroids; an AT1 receptor antagonist; and an ACE inhibitor.

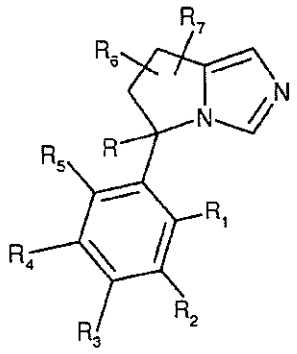
15. Use of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 or 14 as a medicament.

16. Use according to claim 12 or 13 wherein the medicament is for the treatment of a disorder or disease in a subject mediated by aldosterone synthase or responsive to inhibition of aldosterone synthase activity.

17. Use according to claim 12 or 14 wherein the medicament is for the treatment of a disorder or disease in a subject mediated by aromatase or responsive to inhibition of aromatase activity.

Claims

1. A compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R is hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, or (C_2-C_7) alkenyl, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl and (C_2-C_7) alkenyl being optionally substituted by one to five substituents independently selected from the group consisting of -O-R_8 and -N(R_8)(R_9), wherein R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, acyl, aryl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl; or

R is -C(O)O-R_{10}, or --C(O)N(R_{11})(R_{12}), wherein R_{10}, R_{11} and R_{12} are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, aryl, aryl-(C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl and heteroaryl, each of which is further optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, and aryl, wherein R_{11} and R_{12} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R_1, R_2, R_4, and R_5 are selected independently from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, nitro, H_2N--, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl, -C(O)OR_{10}, and -N(R_{13})(R_{14}), said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alkyl-, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above, said R_{13} and R_{14} are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkoxy, aryl and cyano,

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_2-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, halo, cyano, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkoxy, aryloxy, aryl, heretoaryl and -C(O)OR_{10}, said (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_2-C_7) alkenyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, aryl and heteroaryl being further optionally substituted by one to three substituents selected from (C_1-C_7) alkyl, hydroxyl, halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, (C_1-C_7) dialkylamino, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy- (C_1-C_7) alkyl-, and (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, said R_{10} having the same meanings as defined above,

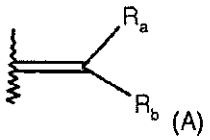
with the proviso that no more than three of R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, and R_5 are simultaneously hydrogen;

R_{13} and R_{14} taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached optionally form a 3-8-membered ring;

R and R_1 taken together optionally form a 5-6-membered ring containing 0 or 1 heteroatom selected from O, N, or S;

R_6 and R_7 are independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, phenyl, or benzyl, wherein phenyl and benzyl are optionally substituted by one to four substituents independently selected from the group consisting of halo, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy and (C_1-C_7) alkyl;

when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they optionally form a moiety (A) represented by the following structure:



(A)

wherein R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) alkoxy, acyl, --$COOR_{15}$ or -COR_{15}, said R_{15} being hydrogen, (C_1-C_7) alkyl, (C_1-C_7) haloalkyl, aryl, or -NH_2; or
when R_6 and R_7 are attached to the same carbon atom, they taken together with said carbon atom optionally form a 3-8-membered ring; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers; or a compound selected from the group consisting of: 5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 5-(3-fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole; 1-[5-cyano-3-(6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-yl)phenyl]-3-ethylurea; 5-(2-bromo-4-cyanophenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo [1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid cyclohexylmethylamide; 1,2,6',7'-tetrahydro-2-oxo-1-(2,2,2-trifluoroethyl)spiro [3*H*-indole-3,5'-[5*H*]pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole]-6-carbonitrile, 1-(cyclohexylmethyl)-1,2-6',7'-tetrahydro-2-oxospiro [3*H*-indole-3,5'-[5*H*]pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole]-6-carbonitrile and 1-ethyl-1,2,6',7'-tetrahydro-2-oxospiro[3*H*-indole-3,5'-[5*H*]pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole]-6-carbonitrile; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an optical isomer thereof; or a mixture of optical isomers.

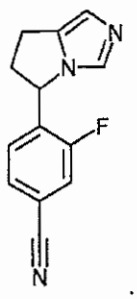
2. A compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-3-ethyl-benzonitrile;
4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-2-ethyl-benzonitrile;
4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-3-methyl-benzonitrile;
4-(R)-6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl-3-fluoro-benzonitrile;
4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-2-methoxy-benzonitrile;
4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-3-methoxy-benzonitrile;
3-Bromo-4-(6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-benzonitrile;
3-Chloro-4-(6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-benzonitrile;
4-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-2-methyl-benzonitrile;
3-Amino-4-(6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-benzonitrile;
5-(4-Cyano-2-methoxy-phenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid butyl ester;
5-(4-Cyano-2-methoxy-phenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-methoxy-benzyl)-methyl-amide;
5-(4-Cyano-2-trifluoromethoxy-phenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester;
5-(4-Cyano-2-methoxy-phenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid 2-isopropoxy-ethyl ester;
5-(2-Chloro-4-cyano-phenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid 4-fluoro-benzyl ester;
5-(2-chloro-4-cyanophenyl)-6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid;
5-(2-chloro-4-cyanophenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxyli acid methyl ester;
5-(4-Cyano-2-methoxyphenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid (4-fluorobenzyl)methylamide;
5-(4-Cyano-2,5-dimethoxyphenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester;
3-Chloro-4-[5-(morpholino-4-carbonyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-yl]benzonitrile;
5-(4-Cyano-2-trifluoromethylphenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5iii*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole-5-carboxylic acid methyl ester; and
5-(3-Fluoro-4-methoxyphenyl)- 6,7-dihydro-5*H*-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazole.

3. A compound according to claim 1 which is 4-(R)-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile in free form, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. A compound according to claim 1 which is 4-(R)-(6,7-Dihydro-5H-pyrrolo[1,2-c]imidazol-5-yl)-3-fluoro-benzonitrile.

5. The R enantiomer of a compound of claim 1 which has the formula



6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 for use as a medicament.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for use in a treatment of a disorder or a disease mediated by aldosterone synthase, or responsive to the inhibition of aldosterone synthase activity.

8. A compound for use according to claim 7, wherein the disorder or disease is **characterized by** an abnormal activity of aldosterone synthase.

9. A compound for use according to claim 7, wherein the disorder or the disease is selected from hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, renal failure, in particular, chronic renal failure, restenosis, atherosclerosis, syndrome X, obesity, nephropathy, post-myocardial infarction, coronary heart diseases, inflammation, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis such as cardiac or myocardiac fibrosis and remodeling following hypertension and endothelial dysfunction.

10. Use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a disorder or disease mediated by aldosterone synthase or responsive to inhibition of aldosterone synthase.

11. Use of a compound according to claim 10, wherein the disorder or disease is **characterized by** an abnormal activity of aldosterone synthase.

12. Use of a compound according to claim 10, wherein the disorder or disease is selected from hypokalemia, hypertension, congestive heart failure, atrial fibrillation, renal failure, in particular, chronic renal failure, restenosis, atherosclerosis, syndrome X, obesity, nephropathy, post-myocardial infarction, coronary heart diseases, inflammation, increased formation of collagen, fibrosis such as cardiac or myocardiac fibrosis and remodeling following hypertension and endothelial dysfunction.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and one or two or more therapeutically active agents selected from angiotensin II receptor antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, HMG-Co-A reductase inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; calcium channel blocker (CCB) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; dual angiotensin converting enzyme/neutral endopeptidase (ACE/NEP) inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; endothelin antagonist or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; renin inhibitor or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; diuretic or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; an ApoA-I mimic; an anti-diabetic agent; an obesity-reducing agent; an aldosterone receptor blocker; an endothelin receptor blocker; a CETP inhibitor; an inhibitor of Na-K-ATPase membrane pump; a beta-adrenergic receptor blocker or an alpha-adrenergic receptor blocker; a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) inhibitor; and an inotropic agent.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and one or two or more therapeutically active agents selected from an antiestrogen; an anti-androgen; a gonadorelin agonist; a topoisomerase I inhibitor; a topoisomerase II inhibitor; a microtubule active agent; an alkylating agent; an anti-neoplastic anti-metabolite; a platin compound; a compound targeting/decreasing a protein or lipid kinase activity or a protein or lipid phosphatase activity, a anti-angiogenic compound; a compound which induces cell differentiation processes; monoclonal antibodies; a cyclooxygenase inhibitor; a bisphosphonate; a heparanase inhibitor; a biological response modifier; an inhibitor of Ras oncogenic isoforms; a telomerase inhibitor; a protease inhibitor, a matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor, a methionine aminopeptidase inhibitor; a proteasome inhibitor; agents which target, decrease or inhibit the activity of Flt-3; an HSP90 inhibitor; antiproliferative antibodies; an HDAC inhibitor; a compound which targets, decreases or inhibits the activity/function of serine/theronine mTOR kinase; a somatostatin receptor antagonist; an anti-leukemic compound; tumor cell damaging approaches; an EDG binder; a ribonucleotide reductase inhibitor; an S-adenosylmethionine decarboxylase inhibitor; a monoclonal antibody of VEGF or VEGFR;; an Angiostatic steroid; an implant containing corticosteroids; an AT1 receptor antagonist; and an ACE inhibitor.