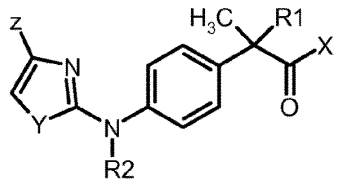
CLAIMS

1. An IL-8 inhibitor for use in the prevention and/or treatment of secondary bacterial infections, preferably secondary respiratory infections, more preferably secondary pneumococcal infections, wherein the IL-8 inhibitor is selected from small molecular weight molecules.
2. An IL-8 inhibitor for use according to claim 1, wherein said secondary bacterial infections are associated with a preceding influenza infection, sepsis, severe ischemia or reperfusion injury.
3. An IL-8 inhibitor for use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said IL-8 inhibitor is an inhibitor of the activity of IL-8 mediated by the CXCR1 receptor or by both the CXCR1 and CXCR2 receptors, preferably mediated by both the CXCR1 and CXCR2 receptors.
4. An IL-8 inhibitor for use in any of the previous claims, selected from 1,3-thiazol-2-ylaminophenylpropionic acid derivatives, 2-phenyl-propionic acid derivatives and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts.
5. An IL-8 inhibitor for use according to claim 4, wherein said 1,3-thiazol-2-ylaminophenylpropionic acid derivatives are compounds of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

-R1 is hydrogen or CH_3;

-R2 is hydrogen or linear C_1-C_4 alkyl, preferably it is hydrogen;

-Y is a heteroatom selected from S, O and N; preferably it is S;

-Z is selected from halogen, linear or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_4 alkenyl, C_2-C_4 alkynyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, hydroxyl, carboxyl, C_1-C_4 acyloxy, phenoxy, cyano, nitro, amino, C_1-C_4 acylamino, halo C_1-C_3 alkyl, halo C_1-C_3 alkoxy, benzoyl, linear or branched C_1-C_8 alkanesulfonate, linear or branched C_1-C_8 alkanesulfonamide, linear or branched C_1-C_8 alkylsulfonylmethyl; preferably it is trifluoromethyl;

-X is OH or a residue of formula NHR_3; wherein R_3 is selected from:

-hydrogen, hydroxyl, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_1-C_5 alkoxy, or C_1-C_6 phenylalkyl, wherein alkyl, cycloalkyl or alkenyl group can be substituted by a COOH residue;

- a residue of formula SO_2R4 wherein R4 is C_1-C_2 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_1-C_3 haloalkyl.

6. An IL-8 inhibitor for use according to claim 5, wherein:

R1 is hydrogen or CH_3;

X is OH;

R2 is hydrogen or linear C_1-C_4 alkyl,

Y is a heteroatom selected from S, O and N;

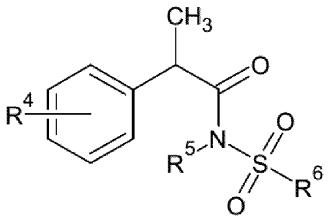
Z is selected from linear or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_4 alkoxy, halo C_1-C_3 alkyl and halo C_1-C_3 alkoxy.

7. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claim 5, wherein R1 is hydrogen, the chiral carbon atom of the phenylproprionic group is in the S configuration.

8. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claims 4 to 6, selected from 2-methyl-2-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl]amino} phenyl) propanoic acid and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, preferably its sodium salt.

9. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in any of claims 4 to 7, wherein said compound is (2S)-2-(4-{[4-(trifluoromethyl)-1,3-thiazol-2-yl] amino} phenyl) propanoic acid and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, preferably its sodium salt.

10. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claim 4, wherein said 2-phenyl-propionic acid derivatives are compounds of formula (II)



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

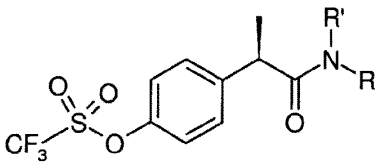
wherein:

R^4 is linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, benzoyl, phenoxy, trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy; preferably R^4 is selected from benzoyl, isobutyl and trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy, more preferably R^4 is 3-benzoyl, 4-isobutyl or 4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy;

R^5 is H or linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl, preferably it is H;

R^6 is linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl or trifluoromethyl; preferably, it is a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, more preferably it is CH_3.

11. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claim 4, wherein said 2-phenyl-propionic acid derivatives are compounds of formula (III)



(III)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

wherein

R' is hydrogen;

R is H or a residue of formula SO_2Ra wherein Ra is linear or branched C_1-C_4 alkyl or halo C_1-C_3 alkyl, preferably Ra is CH_3.

12. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the chiral carbon atom of the phenylpropionic group is in the R configuration.

13. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claims 10 or 12, wherein said compound is selected from R-(-)-2-(4-isobutylphenyl)propionyl methanesulfonamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, preferably the lysine *in situ* salt.

14. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in any of claims 10 to 12, wherein said compound is R(-)-2-(4-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenyl]-N-methanesulfonyl propionamide and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, preferably its sodium salt.

15. An IL-8 inhibitor for use as claimed in claims 11 or 12, wherein said compound is R(-)-2-[(4'-trifluoromethanesulfonyloxy)phenyl]propionamide.

16. An IL-8 inhibitor for use in the prevention and/or treatment of secondary bacterial infections, preferably secondary respiratory infections, more preferably secondary pneumococcal infections, wherein the IL-8 inhibitor is

selected from antibodies, preferably from anti-CXCR1/CXCR2 receptor antibodies.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an IL-8 inhibitor for use according to any of the previous claims and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and/or diluents.