ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for the production of medrogestone, in which, in an intermediate step, the solvate 3β,5α,6β-trihydroxy-6α,17α-dimethylpregnan-20-one monomethanolate is obtained as a solid, stable compound by displacing the organic solvent from a solution of of 3β,5α,6β-trihydroxy-6α,17α-dimethylpregnan-20-one with a lower alkanol, and a Diels-Alder adduct of 6-methylene-17α-methylpregn-4-ene-3,20-dione with maleic anhydride is used as an intermediate for production of the corresponding dicarboxylic acid salt for removal of 6-methylene-17α-methylpregn-4-ene-3,20-dione contamination of the desired product. Another intermediate, 6β-hydroxy-6α,17α-dimethylpregn-4-ene-3,20-dione , has been found to prevent smooth muscle proliferation and is useful in the treatment of atherosclerosis and restinosis.

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