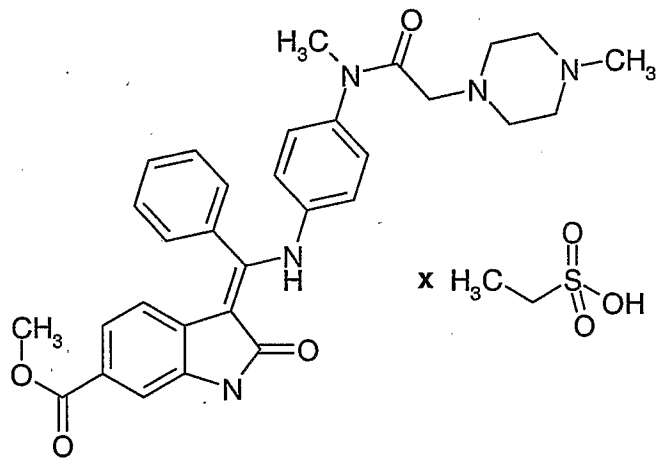
3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-Methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate and the use thereof as a pharmaceutical composition

The present invention relates to the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate of formula I and the use thereof in a pharmaceutical composition.

Formula I:



Background to the Invention

A number of 2-indolinone derivatives are already known in the prior art. Thus, for example, International Patent Application WO 01/27081 discloses 2-indolinone derivatives which have valuable pharmacological properties.

Like the 2-indolinone derivatives mentioned in the prior art, the compound of formula I also has, in particular, an inhibiting effect on various kinases, particularly receptor tyrosine kinases such as VEGFR1, VEGFR2, VEGFR3, PDGFRα, PDGFRβ, FGFR1, FGFR3, EGFR, HER2, c-Kit, IGF1R, Flt-3 and HGFR, and on the proliferation of

cultivated human cells, particularly endothelial cells, e.g. in angiogenesis, but also on the proliferation of other cells, particularly tumour cells.

The pharmacologically valuable properties of the indolinone derivatives disclosed in the art and mentioned above constitute the basic prerequisite for effective use of the compounds as pharmaceutical compositions. An active substance must in any case satisfy additional requirements in order to be accepted for use as a drug. These parameters are largely connected with the physicochemical nature of the active substance.

Without being restrictive, examples of these parameters are the stability of effect of the starting substance under various environmental conditions, the stability during production of the pharmaceutical formulation and stability in the final compositions of the drug. The pharmaceutically active substance used to prepare the pharmaceutical compositions should therefore have great stability which is ensured even under all kinds of environmental conditions. This is absolutely essential to prevent pharmaceutical compositions being used which contain breakdown products, for example, in addition to the active substance itself. In such a case the content of active substance present in the pharmaceutical formulation might be lower than specified.

The absorption of moisture reduces the content of pharmaceutically active substance as a result of the increased weight caused by the uptake of water. Pharmaceutical compositions with a tendency to absorb moisture have to be protected from moisture during storage, e.g. by the addition of suitable drying agents or by storing the drug in an environment where it is protected from moisture. In addition, the uptake of moisture may reduce the content of pharmaceutically active substance during manufacture if the pharmaceutical substance is exposed to the environment without being protected from moisture in any way. Preferably, therefore, a pharmaceutically active substance should be only slightly hygroscopic.

As the crystal modification of an active substance is important to the reproducible active substance content of a preparation, there is a need to clarify as far as possible any existing polymorphism of an active substance present in crystalline form. If there are different polymorphic modifications of an active substance care must be taken to ensure

that the crystalline modification of the substance does not change in the pharmaceutical preparation later produced from it. Otherwise, this could have a harmful effect on the reproducible potency of the drug. Against this background, active substances characterised by only slight polymorphism are preferred.

Another criterion which may be of exceptional importance under certain circumstances depending on the choice of formulation or the choice of manufacturing process is the solubility of the active substance. If for example pharmaceutical solutions are prepared (e.g. for infusions) it is essential that the active substance should be sufficiently soluble in physiologically acceptable solvents. It is also very important for drugs which are to be taken orally that the active substance should be sufficiently soluble.

The problem of the present invention is to provide a pharmaceutically active substance which not only is characterised by high pharmacological potency but also satisfies the above-mentioned physicochemical requirements as far as possible.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Surprisingly, it has been found that the problem outlined above is solved by the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate of formula I.

The monoethanesulphonate according to the invention is characterised by good crystallinity and low amorphisation during grinding and compression. In addition it is not hygroscopic and is readily soluble in physiologically acceptable solvents.

The crystalline form of the monoethanesulphonate of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone according to the invention is characterised by a melting point of $T_{m.p.} = 305 \pm 5°C$ (determined by DSC = Differential Scanning Calorimetry; evaluated by the peak maximum; heating rate: 10°C/min). The value given was determined using a DSC 821^e made by Messrs Mettler Toledo.

Therefore a first object of the present invention is the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-

piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate, preferably in crystalline form, characterised by a melting point of $T_{m.p.}$ = 305 ± 5°C (determined by DSC; evaluation by peak maximum; heating rate: 10°C/min).

The crystalline form of 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to the invention was investigated in more detail by x-ray powder diffraction. The diagram obtained is shown in Figure 1.

Table 1 that follows contains the data obtained in this analysis:

Table 1: X-ray powder reflections and intensities (standardised) of 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate.

h	k	l	2 Θ [°]	d_{hkl} Value [Å]	Intensity [%]
0	0	1	7.70	11.47	17.7
0	-1	0	8.78	10.07	19.2
-1	0	1	9.47	9.33	26.4
1	0	1	9.82	9.00	32.2
2	0	0	11.59	7.63	30.9
0	-2	1	11.93	7.41	26.3
1	2	0	13.15	6.73	29.6
-2	0	1	13.69	6.47	31.8
2	1	0	14.17	6.24	30.9
3	-1	0	16.32	5.43	41.7
0	1	2	16.72	5.30	29.0

h	k	l	2 Θ [°]	d_{hkl} Value [Å]	Intensity [%]
-1	1	2	16.92	5.238	9.8
3	0	0	17.43	5.08	42.7
2	2	0	17.77	4.99	26.9
1	-4	0	18.58	4.77	31.1
-3	0	1	18.81	4.71	41.8
-2	0	2	19.03	4.66	39.2
3	-3	1	19.73	4.50	40.2
0	4	0	19.87	4.47	6.2
2	-4	1	20.03	4.43	100.0
0	-4	1	20.61	4.31	8.3
-3	-1	1	20.83	4.26	5.5
1	2	2	21.26	4.18	31.1
-1	3	2	21.76	4.08	19.8
0	4	1	22.05	4.03	32.4
3	-4	1	22.19	4.00	10.1
0	3	2	22.57	3.94	25.6
-3	4	1	23.10	3.85	32.3
-1	0	3	23.81	3.73	32.0
1	4	1	24.69	3.60	26.6
1	3	2	24.78	3.58	24.6
0	5	0	24.91	3.572	15.6
-1	5	1	25.42	3.50	23.7
-4	4	1	26.24	3.39	24.8

h	k	l	2 Θ [°]	d_{hkl} Value [Å]	Intensity [%]
3	-2	2	26.91	3.31	22.9
-3	4	2	27.19	3.28	23.9
1	5	0	27.61	3.23	22.0
-1	-5	1	27.95	3.19	22.3
3	-1	3	28.71	3.11	22.1
5	0	0	29.25	3.05	20.2

In Table 1 above the value "2 Θ [°]" denotes the angle of diffraction in degrees and the value "d_{hkl} [Å]" denotes the specified distances in Å between the lattice planes.

The x-ray powder diagram was recorded, within the scope of the present invention, using a Bruker D8 Advanced-diffractometer fitted with a location-sensitive detector (OED) and a Cu anode as the x-ray source (CuK_α radiation, λ = 1.54056 Å, 40 kV, 40 mA).

According to the findings shown in Table 1 the present invention relates to crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate, characterised in that in the x-ray powder diagram it has, *inter alia*, the characteristic values d = 5.43 Å, 5.08 Å, 4.71 Å, 4.50 Å and 4.43 Å with an intensity of more than 40%.

Evaluation of the x-ray powder data obtained yields the unit cell of the compound according to the invention, the crystallographic data of which are provided in Table 2 below:

Formula	$C_{66}H_{78}N_{10}O_{15}S_2$
Molecular weight	1315.52
Crystal system	triclinic
a	16.332 Å
b	19.199 Å
c	11.503 Å
α	95.27°
β	90.13°
γ	110.83°
V	3354.4 $Å^3$

The unit cell is defined by the lengths of the side of this cell a, b and c, by the relative angles α, β and γ of the cell sides to one another and by the cell volume V (see Table 2). Methods of recording and evaluating x-ray powder diagrams for determining unit cells and their dimensions are known in the prior art and are recognised for characterising the crystalline nature and structure of a product.

Thus, the present invention also relates to the crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to the invention, characterised by a unit cell determined by x-ray powder diffractometric measurements, having the following dimensions:

a = 16.332 Å
b = 19.199 Å
c = 11.503 Å
α = 95.27°
β = 90.13°

γ = 110.83°

V = 3354.4 Å^3

Using a monocrystal it was also possible to determine the space group of the compound according to the invention. The corresponding data are shown in Table 3 below:

Structural resolution	From monocrystal data
Space group	$P\bar{1}$ (#2)
Density (calculated)	2.605 g/ cm^3
Cell contents	➢ 2 molecules of different conformation ➢ 2 x $EtSO_4$ ➢ 1 x H_2O

Under standard conditions the monoethanesulphonate of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone according to the invention is present in the form of the hemihydrate, from which water escapes at a temperature of about 130°C. Figure 2 shows the thermoanalysis.

The present invention also relates to the metabolites of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate of formula I, to prodrugs of this compound or of these metabolites obtained via, for example, chemical or non-chemical derivatization of the entire molecule or of one or more chemical groups on the molecule, and to the use thereof in a pharmaceutical composition.

Hence, metabolites of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate may occur via, for example, de-esterification of an ester group on the molecule. This de-esterification may occur in-vivo through the action of specific or a-specific esterases present in the body of the patient to which the drug is

administered.

Prodrugs of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate or of metabolites thereof may be obtained via, for example, any chemical substitution of a carboxy or amino group present on the molecule or by substitution of the the N-1-atom of the indolinone moiety by a group which may be cleaved *in vivo*.

By a group which may be cleaved in vivo and converted in-vivo into a carboxy group is meant for example a hydroxymethyl group, a carboxy group esterified with an alcohol wherein the alcoholic moiety preferably denotes a C_{1-6}-alkanol, a phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkanol, a C_{3-9}-cycloalkanol, while a C_{5-8}-cycloalkanol may additionally be substituted by one or two C_{1-3}-alkyl groups, a C_{5-8}-cycloalkanol, wherein a methylene group is replaced in the 3 or 4 position by an oxygen atom or by an imino group optionally substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl, phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy-carbonyl or C_{1-6}-alkyl-carbonyl group and the cycloalkanol moiety may additionally be substituted by one or two C_{1-3}-alkyl groups, a C_{4-7}-cycloalkenol, a C_{3-5}-alkenol, a phenyl-C_{3-5}-alkenol, a C_{3-5}-alkynol or phenyl-C_{3-5}-alkynol, with the proviso that no bond to the oxygen atom starts from a carbon atom which carries a double or triple bond, a C_{3-8}-cycloalkyl-C_{1-3}-alkanol, a bicycloalkanol with a total of 8 to 10 carbon atoms which may additionally be substituted in the bicycloalkyl moiety by one or two C_{1-3}-alkyl groups, a 1,3-dihydro-3-oxo-1-isobenzofuranol or an alcohol of formula

$$R_a\text{-CO-O-}(R_bCR_c)\text{-OH},$$

wherein

R_a denotes a C_{1-8}-alkyl, C_{5-7}-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{5-7}-cycloalkyl or phenyl group and

R_c denotes a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

and by a group which may be cleaved *in vivo* from an amino group or from the N-1 atom

of the indolinone moiety is meant for example a hydroxy group, an acyl group such as the benzoyl or pyridinoyl group or a C_{1-16}-alkyl-carbonyl group such as the formyl, acetyl, propionyl, butanoyl, pentanoyl or hexanoyl group, an allyloxycarbonyl group, a C_{1-16}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxy-carbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, tert.butoxycarbonyl, pentoxycarbonyl, hexyloxycarbonyl, octyloxycarbonyl, nonyloxycarbonyl, decyloxycarbonyl, undecyloxycarbonyl, dodecyloxycarbonyl or hexadecyloxycarbonyl group, a phenyl-C_{1-6}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the benzyloxycarbonyl, phenylethoxycarbonyl or phenylpropoxycarbonyl group, a C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonyl-C_{1-4}-alkoxy-carbonyl, C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{2-4}-alkoxy-C_{2-4}-alkoxy-carbonyl or R_aCO-O-(R_bCR_c)-O-CO-group wherein

R_a denotes a C_{1-8}-alkyl, C_{5-7}-cycloalkyl, phenyl or phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkyl group,

R_b denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-3}-alkyl, C_{5-7}-cycloalkyl or phenyl group and

R_c denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-3}-alkyl or R_aCO-O-(R_bCR_c)-O-group wherein R_a to R_c are as hereinbefore defined,

and additionally the phthalimido group, while the abovementioned ester groups may also be used as a group which can be converted *in vivo* into a carboxy group.

Preferred prodrug groups for a carboxy group include a C_{1-6}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, n-propyloycarbonyl, isopropyloxycarbonyl, n-butyloxycarbonyl, n-pentyloxycarbonyl, n-hexyloxycarbonyl or cyclohexyloxycarbonyl group or phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the benzyloxycarbonyl group and

for an amino group or the N-1 group of the indolinone moiety a C_{1-9}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, n-propyloxycarbonyl, isopropyloxycarbonyl, n-butyloxycarbonyl, n-pentyloxycarbonyl, n-hexyloxycarbonyl, cyclohexyloxycarbonyl, n-heptyloxycarbonyl, n-octyloxycarbonyl or n-nonyloxycarbonyl group, a phenyl-C_{1-3}-alkoxy-carbonyl group such as the benzyloxycarbonyl group, a phenylcarbonyl group optionally substituted by a C_{1-3}-alkyl group such as the benzoyl or 4-ethyl-benzoyl group, a pyridinoyl group such as the nicotinoyl group, a C_{1-3}-alkylsulphonyl-n-C_{2-3}-alkoxy-carbonyl or C_{1-3}-alkoxy-C_{2-3}-alkoxy-C_{1-4}-alkoxy-carbonyl

group such as the 2-methylsulphonylethoxycarbonyl or 2-(2-ethoxy)-ethoxycarbonyl group.

Moreover, the saturated alkyl and alkoxy moieties containing more than 2 carbon atoms mentioned in the definitions above as well as the alkanoyl and unsaturated alkyl moieties which contain more than 3 carbon atoms also include the branched isomers thereof such as the isopropyl, tert.butyl, isobutyl group, etc.

For the chemical synthesis of the above-mentioned metabolites and prodrugs, reference is made to WO 01/27081.

Experimental studies have shown that a metabolite of the compound 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate is the de-esterified 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-carbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-carboxy-2-indolinone. The in-vitro inhibitory activity of this metabolite on several kinases has been evaluated, using standard known kinase inhibition assays as well as a standard known cellular proliferation inhibition assay (inhibition of the proliferation of Human Umbilical Cord Endothelial Cells stimulated by the VEGF, the so-called "HUVEC cellular assay"). These experimental results have shown that this metabolite inhibits several kinases, such as VEGFR-2, VEGFR-3, Her-2, FGFR-1, PDGFR-alpha or InsR, as well as the proliferation of HUVEC VEGF stimulated cells.

Furthermore, the compounds in accordance with the present invention may be administered to a patient in need thereof in any type of galenical form such as tablets, capsules or in a liquid formulation.

An especially suitable pharmaceutical formulation for the compounds in accordance with the present invention is soft gelatine capsules. Suitable soft gelatine capsules for the encapsulation of pharmaceutical compounds and the process for their preparation are described, for example, in GB patent No. 395546, US patent No. 2,720,463, US patent No. 2,870,062, US patent No. 4,829,057, and in the following publications: ANON (Verpack-Rundsch., Vol. 21, No. 1, Jan 1970, pp. 136-138), Lachman et al. (The Theory and Practice of Industrial Pharmacy, Chap. 13, published by Lea & Febiger,

1970), Ebert (Soft Gelatine Capsules: A Unique Dosage Form, reprint from Pharmaceutical Technology, Oct. 1977) and R. F. Jimerson (Soft Gelatine Capsule Update, Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy, Vol. 12 (8 & 9), pp. 1133-1144, 1986).

Experimental section

The HPLC data given below were measured using the parameters listed hereinafter:

Column: Inertsil ODS-2, 5 μm, 53 x 4.0 mm; solvent A: 0.2% aqueous KH_2PO_4 solution, adjusted to pH = 6.0 with dilute sodium hydroxide solution; solvent B: acetonitrile; column temperature: 45°C; flow: 1mL/min; gradient system: within 5 minutes, from 5% to 30% solvent B, then maintained for 1 minute at 30% solvent B and then within 9 minutes increased to 55% solvent B, then maintained for 4 minutes at 55% B; concentration of the sample solution: 5 mg/mL in acetonitrile/water = 3 : 7; injection volume: 3 μL; detection at 225 nm and 210 nm, respectively.

Example 1

3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone

10.5 g (30.0 mmol) of 1-acetyl-3-(1-ethoxy-1-phenylmethylene)-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone (for preparation see WO 01/27081 mentioned above) and 8.60 g (33.0 mmol) N-[(4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl]-N-methyl-*p*-phenylenediamine (for preparation see WO 01/27081 mentioned above) are dissolved in 80 mL of dimethylformamide and stirred for 1 hour at 80°C. After cooling 6.50 mL of piperidine are added and the mixture is stirred for another two hours at ambient temperature. Water is added, the precipitate formed is suction filtered and washed with a little water. The residue is suspended in 200 mL of methanol, suction filtered and washed with cold water and diethyl ether. The substance is dried *in vacuo* at 110 °C.

Yield:	12.4 g (77% of theory),			
IR spectrum:	1610, 1655, 1711 cm^{-1}			
$T_{m.p.}$ =	253°C			
Empirical formula:	$C_{31}H_{33}N_5O_4$			
ESI mass spectrum:	m/z = 540 $[M+H]^+$			
Elemental analysis:	calculated:	C 68.99	H 6.16	N 12.98
	found:	C 68.32	H 6.29	N 12.85

Example 2

3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate

605 g (1.12 mol) of 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone are suspended in 9 litres of methanol and heated to 50°C. 183.7 g (1.121 mol) of 70% aqueous ethanesulphonic acid are added. The solution obtained is cooled to 40°C and 4.5 litres of *tert.*-butylmethylether are added. After a few minutes crystallisation sets in. To achieve total precipitation the mixture is stirred for another 16 hours at ambient

temperature. After cooling to 10°C it is suction filtered, washed with 2 litres of *tert.*-butylmethylether and dried at 40°C *in vacuo*.

Yield:	638 g (87.6% of theory)
$T_{m.p.}$ =	305 ± 5°C (DSC 10K/min)
Purity according to HPLC:	99.4%
Water content:	1.0 to 2.0% (KF)

Brief description of the Figures

Figure 1 shows the X-ray powder diffractogram of crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate.

Figure 2 shows the thermoanalysis and determination of the melting point (DSC) of crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate.

Patent Claims

1. 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate.

2. 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2- indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to claim 1 in crystalline form, characterised by a melting point of $T_{m.p.} = 305 \pm 5°C$ (determined by DSC; evaluation using peak-maximum; heating rate: 10°C/min).

3. Crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to claim 2, characterised in that in the X-ray powder diagram it shows, *inter alia*, the characteristic values d = 5.43 Å, 5.08 Å, 4.71 Å, 4.50 Å and 4.43 Å with an intensity of more than 40%.

4. Crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to claim 2, characterised by a unit cell determined by X-ray powder diffractometric measurements having the following dimensions:

a = 16.332 Å,
b = 19.199 Å,
c = 11.503 Å,
α = 95.27°,
β = 90.13°,
γ = 110.83° and
V = 3354.4 $Å^3$

5. Crystalline 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to one of claims 2 to 4, characterised in that it is in

the form of the hemihydrate.

6. Pharmaceutical composition containing the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to one of claims 1 to 5 optionally together with one or more inert carrier and/or diluents.

7. A metabolite of the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate.

8. A prodrug of the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to one of claims 1 to 5 or of a metabolite according to claim 7.

9. Pharmaceutical composition containing a metabolite according to claim 7 or a prodrug according to claim 8, optionally together with one or more inert carrier and/or diluents.

10. Use of 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to one of claims 1 to 5 for preparing a pharmaceutical composition which is suitable for treating excessive or abnormal cell proliferation.

11. Use of a metabolite according to claim 7 or a prodrug according to claim 8 for preparing a pharmaceutical composition which is suitable for treating excessive or abnormal cell proliferation.

12. Process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, characterised in that the salt 3-Z-[1-(4-(N-((4-methyl-piperazin-1-yl)-methylcarbonyl)-N-methyl-amino)-anilino)-1-phenyl-methylene]-6-methoxycarbonyl-2-indolinone-monoethanesulphonate according to one of claims 1 to 5 is incorporated in one or more inert carriers and/or diluents by a non-chemical method.

13. Process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 6, characterised in that a metabolite according to claim 7 or a prodrug according to claim 8 is incorporated in one or more inert carriers and/or diluents by a non-chemical method.