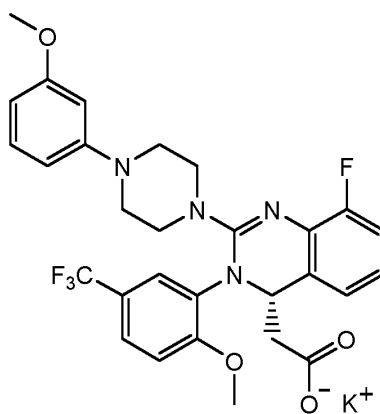


Claims

1. A crystalline potassium salt of letermovir (potassium 2-[(4*S*)-8-fluoro-2-[4-(3-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-3-[2-methoxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-quinazolin-4-yl]acetate) of formula (I)



(I)

or a solvate thereof.

2. The crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof according to claim 1, wherein the solvate is a hydrate.
3. The crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the solvate is a 2.5-hydrate.
4. The crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof according to claim 1, wherein the solvate is a mixed water-ethanol solvate.
5. The crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof according to claim 3, wherein said 2.5-hydrate is characterized in that it shows characteristic peaks at about 6.1, 9.5, 10.7, 11.3, 12.4, 12.9, 15.6, 16.4, 16.8, 17.9, 19.0, 20.0, 20.9, 21.7, 22.4, 23.6, 25.2, 26.0, 26.7, 27.3, 28.2, 28.7, 29.6, 30.2, 30.9, 31.4, 32.2, 32.8 and 33.4 degrees 2theta in the X-ray powder diffractogram.
6. The crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof according to claim 4, wherein said mixed water-ethanol solvate is characterized in that it shows characteristic

peaks at about 6.1, 9.4, 10.6, 11.2, 12.3, 12.8, 15.5, 16.3, 16.7, 17.8, 18.9, 19.9, 20.8, 21.7, 22.3, 23.5, 25.1, 25.9, 26.6, 27.1, 28.1, 28.5, 29.4, 30.1, 30.8, 31.2, 32.0, 32.6 and 33.3. degrees 2theta in the X-ray powder diffractogram.

- 5 7. A method of producing the crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof as defined in claim 1, wherein the method comprises the following steps:
- a) Dissolving 2-[(4*S*)-8-fluoro-2-[4-(3-methoxyphenyl)piperazin-1-yl]-3-[2-methoxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4*H*-quinazolin-4-yl]acetic acid or a salt or a
10 solvate thereof in a first solvent, wherein said first solvent comprises at least one C1-C6-dialkyl ether and at least one C1-C6 alcohol, optionally under heating;
 - b) Adding potassium hydroxide to the solution obtained in step a to provide a first mixture;
 - c) Stirring said first mixture obtained in step b at a temperature in the range of from
15 25 °C to 80 °C for at least 5 minutes;
 - d) Cooling said first mixture to a temperature in the range of from 0 °C to 30 °C and stirring said first mixture at said temperature for at least 10 minutes;
 - e) Removing said first solvent to provide a first solid;
 - f) Contacting said first solid with a second solvent comprising at least one C1-C6-
20 dialkyl ether to provide a second mixture;
 - g) Stirring said second mixture at a temperature in the range of from 0 °C to 30 °C for at least 1 hour;
 - h) Removing said second solvent to provide a second solid.
- 25 8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the additional subsequent step of keeping the second solid at a temperature in the range of from 20 °C to 30 °C and at a relative humidity of at least 60% for at least 1 hour.
9. The method according to claim 7 or 8, wherein said C1-C6-dialkyl ether is diisopropyl
30 ether.
10. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein said C1-C6-alcohol is ethanol.

11. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein the ratio of volumes of C1-C6-dialkyl ether and C1-C6 alcohol in step a is in the range of from 3 : 1 to 1 : 3.
- 5 12. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 11, wherein said first mixture is stirred in step c at a temperature in the range of from 45 °C to 55 °C for at least 30 minutes.
13. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 12, wherein said first mixture is cooled in step d to a temperature in the range of from 20 °C to 30 °C and stirred at said
10 temperature for at least 30 minutes.
14. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 13, wherein said first solvent is removed in step e by evaporation.
- 15 15. The method according to any one of claims 7 to 14, wherein said second solvent is removed in step h by filtration.
16. A crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or a solvate thereof which is obtainable by the method as defined in any one of claims 7 to 15.
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17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the crystalline potassium salt of letermovir or the solvate thereof as defined in any one of claims 1 to 6 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or diluent.
- 25 18. The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 for use in a method of treatment and/or prevention of diseases, in particular of virus infections, preferably human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) infections or infections with another member of the herpes viridae group.
- 30 19. The use of the pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 17 for producing a medicament for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases, in particular of virus infections, preferably human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) infections or infections with another member of the herpes viridae group.

20. A method of treatment and/or prevention of virus infections, preferably human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) infections or infections with another member of the herpes viridae group, in humans and animals comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition as defined in claim 17 to a human or an animal who or
5 which requires such a treatment.