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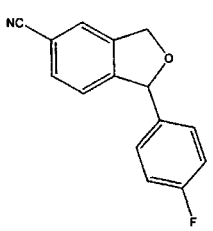
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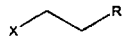
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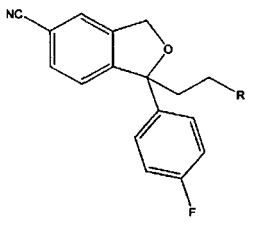
(54) Title: METHOD FOR THE PREPARATION OF CITALOPRAM



(I)



(II)



(III)

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method for the preparation of citalopram comprising reaction a compound of formula (I) with a compound having formula (II) wherein X is a suitable leaving group and R is -CH_2-O-Pg, -CH_2-NPg_1Pg_2 , -CO-$N(CH_3)_2$, -$CH(OR^1)(OR^2)$, -$C(OR^4)(OR^5)(OR^6)$, -$COOR^3$, -CH_2-CO-NH_2, -CH=CHR^7 and -$CONHR^8$ wherein Pg is a protection group for an alcohol group, Pg_1 and Pg_2 are protection groups for an amino group, R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and optionally alkyl substituted aryl or aralkyl groups or R^1 and R^2 together form a chain of 2 to 4 carbon atoms, each of R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and optionally alkyl substituted aryl or aralkyl and R^8 is hydrogen or methyl; to form a compound of formula (III) wherein R is as defined above; followed by conversion of the group R to form a dimethylaminomethyl group and isolation of citalopram base or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

WO 01/43525 A2