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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING MKC–442

(57) Abstract

A process for preparing 6–benzyl–1–(ethoxymethyl)–5–isopropyluracil, which is also known as MKC–442, is disclosed. The process comprises synthesizing an isopropyl ß–ketoester, such as ethyl–2–isopropyl–3–oxo–4–phenyl–butyrate, using any known method, including from benzyl cyanide and ethyl–2–bromo–3,3–dimethyl–propionate with activated zinc in a Reformatsky reaction. The ethyl–2–isopropyl–3–oxo–4–phenyl–butyrate is then condensed with thiourea in one of two ways. First, the ethyl–2–isopropyl–3–oxo–4–phenyl–butyrate is condensed with thiourea in a two–base system in the presence of a solvent. A second process for condensing the ethyl–2–isopropyl–3–oxo–4–phenyl–butyrate with thiourea is conducted in the presence of potassium t–butoxide to form a benzyl isopropyl thiouracil, which is desulfurized in process step (B). The benzyl isopropyl uracil resulting from either process is then alkoxyalkylated in process to form MKC–442.

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