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(54) Title: MODIFIED CYANINE DYES AND CONJUGATES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to the field of optical imaging. More particularly, it relates to compounds of the cyanine family characterized by improved physico-chemical and biological properties and to their conjugates with biological ligands thereof. The invention also relates to the use of these compounds as optical diagnostic agents in imaging or therapy of solid tumors, to the methods for their preparation and to the compositions comprising them.

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