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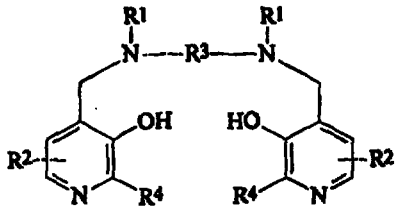

(I)

(57) Abstract

The invention provides the use of a compound of formula (I) or a metal chelate or salt thereof in the manufacture of a therapeutic agent for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions resulting from the presence of free radicals in the human or non-human animal body (wherein in formula (I): each R^1 independently represents hydrogen or $-CH_2COR^5$; R^5 represents hydroxy, optionally hydroxylated alkoxy, amino or alkylamido; each R^2 independently represents a group XYR^6; X represents a bond, or a C_{1-3} alkylene or oxoalkylene group optionally substituted by a group R^7; Y represents a bond, an oxygen atom or a group NR^6; R^6 is a hydrogen atom, a group $COOR^8$, an alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or aralkyl group optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from $COOR^8$, $CONR^8_2$, NR^8_2, OR^8, $=NR^8$, =O, OP(O) $(OR^8)R^7$ and OSO_3M; R^7 is hydroxy, an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxylated alkyl or aminoalkyl group; R^8 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally hydroxylated, optionally alkoxylated alkyl group; M is a hydrogen atom or one equivalent of a physiologically tolerable cation; R^3 represents a C_{1-8} alkylene group, a 1,2-cycloalkylene group, or a 1,2-arylene group; and each R^4 independently represents hydrogen or C_{1-3} alkyl). Such compounds are particularly effective in relieving symptoms associated with reperfusion of ischemic tissue and in treating or preventing radiation-induced injury.