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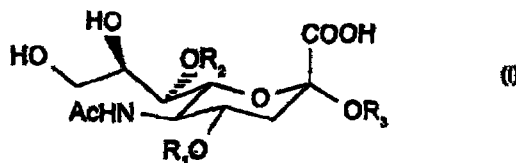
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(54) Title: 4,7-DIALKOXY-N-ACETYLNEURAMINIC ACID DERIVATIVES AND METHODS FOR DETECTION OF INFLUENZA TYPE A AND B VIRUSES IN CLINICAL SPECIMENS



(57) Abstract

Chromogenic and fluorogenic 4,7-dialkoxy-N-acetylneuraminic acid substrates of general formula (I) are provided wherein R₁ and R₂ are alkyl groups containing 1 to 4 carbon atoms and R₃ is a chromogenic or fluorogenic group. These substrates can be used to detect influenza types A and B in clinical samples or specimens. More particularly, these 4,7-dialkoxy-N-acetylneuraminic acid substrates can be used to distinguish between various viruses having neuraminidase reactivity. Thus, influenza type A and B viruses can be distinguished from parainfluenza type 1, 2, 3 and 4, and mumps using the 4,7-dialkoxy-N-acetylneuraminic acid derivatives of this invention. Diagnostic methods employing these substrates are provided to identify influenza type A and B viruses in clinical specimens and to distinguish from other viruses having neuraminidase reactivity.