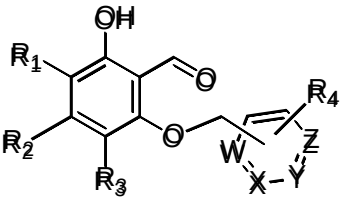
CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A compound having a formula

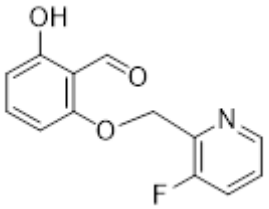


wherein

W, X, Y and Z are the same or different and are independently C or N, with the proviso that at least one of W, X, Y and Z is N; and

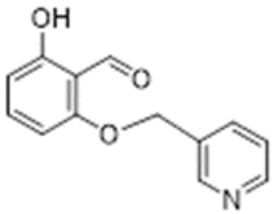
R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are the same or different and independently F, Cl or H, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or oral prodrugs thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 which is

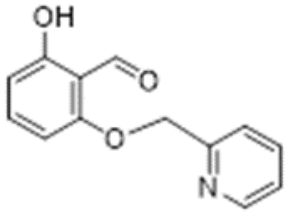


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3. The compound of claim 1 which is



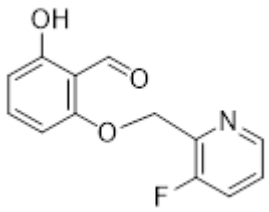
4. The compound of claim 1 which is



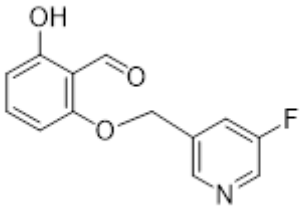
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5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are the same or different and least one is independently F or Cl.

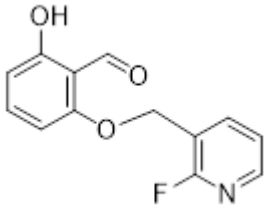
6. The compound of claim 5, wherein the compound is



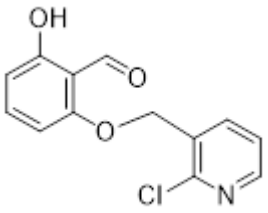
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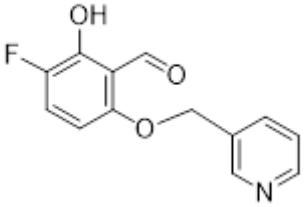


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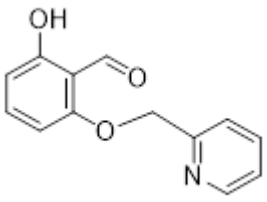
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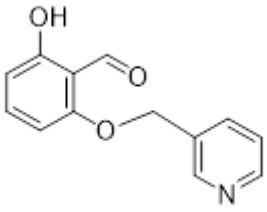


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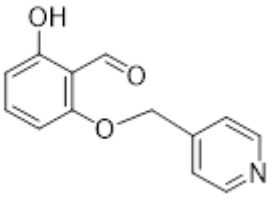
7. The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound is



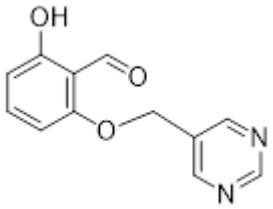
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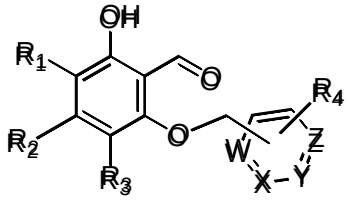
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8. A therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1 for use in preventing or treating one or more symptoms or conditions of sickle cell disease (SCD).

9. The compound of claim 8, wherein the one or more symptoms or conditions are selected from the group consisting of red blood cell (RBC) sickling, adhesion of RBCs to tissue endothelium, oxidative stress and/or damage, hemolysis of RBCs, inflammation, vaso-occlusion, impaired microvascular blood flow, stroke, pain, and death.

10. The compound of claim 8, wherein the compound is to be administered orally.

11. A therapeutically effective amount of a compound, or a salt or prodrug which is metabolized or otherwise converted in a subject to said compound, having the formula



wherein

W, X, Y and Z are the same or different and are independently C or N, with the proviso that at least one of W, X, Y and Z is N; and

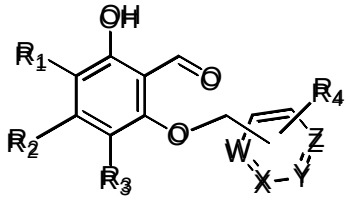
R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are the same or different and independently F, Cl or H for use in preventing or treating one or more symptoms or conditions of sickle cell disease (SCD).

12. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1 in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating one or more symptoms or conditions of sickle cell disease (SCD).

13. The use of claim 12, wherein the one or more symptoms or conditions are selected from the group consisting of red blood cell (RBC) sickling, adhesion of RBCs to tissue endothelium, oxidative stress and/or damage, hemolysis of RBCs, inflammation, vaso-occlusion, impaired microvascular blood flow, stroke, pain, and death.

14. The use of claim 12, wherein the compound is to be administered orally.

15. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound, or a salt or prodrug which is metabolized or otherwise converted in a subject to said compound, having the formula



wherein

W, X, Y and Z are the same or different and are independently C or N, with the proviso that at least one of W, X, Y and Z is N; and

R_1, R_2, R_3, and R_4 are the same or different and independently F, Cl or H in the manufacture of a medicament for preventing or treating one or more symptoms or conditions of sickle cell disease (SCD).