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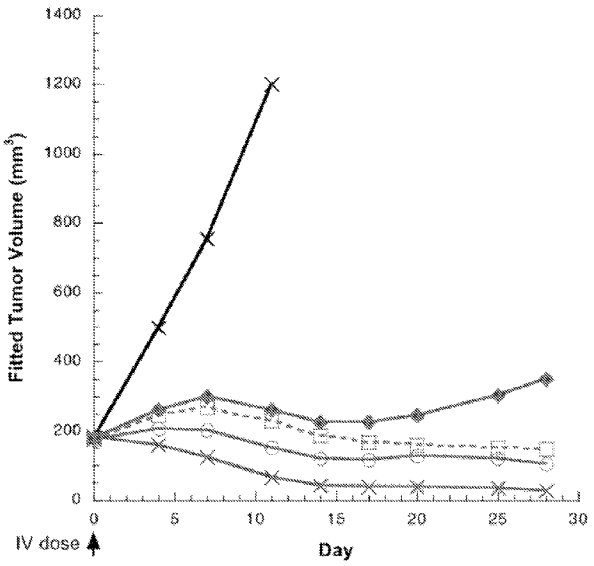

Fig. 1

(57) Abstract: A conjugate of formula (A): the dotted lines indicate the optional presence of a double bond between C1 and C2 or C2 and C3; R^2 is independently selected from H, OH, =0, $=CH_2$, CN, R, OR, $=CH\text{-}R^D$, $=C(R^D)_2$, $0\text{-}SO_2\text{-}R$, $C0_2R$ and COR, and optionally further selected from halo or dihalo; where R^D is independently selected from R, $C0_2R$, COR, CHO, $C0_2H$, and halo; R^6 and R^9 are independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', NO_2, Me_3Sn and halo; $R^7$is independently selected from H, R, OH, OR, SH, SR, NH_2, NHR, NRR', N02, Me_3Sn and halo; Y is selected from a single bond, and a group of formulae A1 or A2: where N shows where the group binds to the N10 of the PBD moiety; R^{L1} and R^{L2} are independently se!ected from H and methyl, or together with the carbon atom to which they are bound form a cyclopropylene group; CBA represents a cell binding agent; Q is independently selected from O, S and NH; R^{11} is either H, or R or, where Q is O, $S0_3M$, where M is a metal cation; R and R' are each independently selected from optionally substituted C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl and C_{5-20}aryl groups, and optionally in relation to the group NRR', R and R' together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form an optionally substituted 4-, 5-; 6- or Z-metfibered heteracyciie ring; wherein R^{12} R^{16}, R^{19} and R^{17} are as defined for R^2, R^6, R^9 and R^7 respectively: wherein R" is a C_{3-12}alky! ene group, which chain may be interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, e.g. O, S, N(H}; NMe and/or aromatic rings, e.g. benzene or pyridine, which rings are optional y substituted; X and X' are independently selected from O, S and N(H).

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