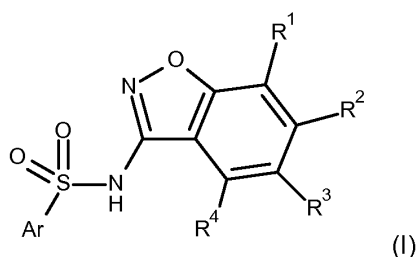


Claims

1. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in a method of therapy:



wherein:

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are independently selected from:

(i) H;

(ii) C₁₋₃ alkyl, optionally substituted by:

hydroxy,

C₁₋₂ alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more fluoro groups,

NH₂,

phenyl,

C₅₋₆ heteroaryl,

C₁₋₄ alkyl carbamoyl,

acylamido, or

one or more fluoro groups;

(iii) C₁₋₃ alkoxy, optionally substituted by C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl or by one or more fluoro groups;

(iv) C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl;

(v) halo;

(vi) COR^C, where R^C is selected from NR^{N1}R^{N2}, where R^{N1} and R^{N2} are independently selected from H and methyl;

(vii) cyano, NH₂, or NO₂; and

(viii) phenyl or C₅₋₆ heteroaryl, optionally substituted by methyl, cyano, hydroxy or methoxy;

Ar is a phenyl, naphthyl or C₅₋₁₀ heteroaryl group, which groups are optionally substituted by one or more groups selected from:

(i) C₁₋₄ alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₂ alkoxy, NH₂, C₁₋₄ alkyl carbamoyl, or by one or more fluoro groups;

(ii) C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl;

(iii) hydroxy; cyano; $\text{NR}^{\text{N}3}\text{R}^{\text{N}4}$, where $\text{R}^{\text{N}3}$ and $\text{R}^{\text{N}4}$ are independently selected from H and methyl; or acylamido;

(iv) halo;

(v) C_{1-3} alkoxy, optionally substituted by hydroxy, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, phenyl, C_{5-6} heteroaryl, or by one or more fluoro groups;

(vi) phenoxy, optionally substituted by fluoro;

(vii) phenyl or C_{5-6} heteroaryl;

(viii) SF_5 or SO_2CH_3 ;

(ix) $-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{-Y-}$, where Y is O or CH_2 , and n is 2 or 3; or

(x) C_{1-4} alkyl ester.

2. The compound or salt for use according to claim 1, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is not H.

3. The compound or salt for use according to either claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is C_{1-3} alkyl, optionally substituted by:

hydroxy,

C_{1-2} alkoxy, optionally substituted by one or more fluoro groups,

NH_2 ,

phenyl,

C_{5-6} heteroaryl,

C_{1-4} alkyl carbamoyl,

acylamido, or

one or more fluoro groups.

4. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is C_{1-3} alkoxy, optionally substituted by C_{3-6} cycloalkyl or one of more fluoro groups.

5. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

6. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is halo.

7. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is COR^C , where R^C is selected from $NR^{N1}R^{N2}$, where R^{N1} and R^{N2} are independently selected from H and methyl.

5 8. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is cyano, NH_2 or NO_2 .

9. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein at least one of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 is phenyl or C_{5-6} heteroaryl, optionally substituted by methyl,
10 cyano, hydroxy or methoxy.

10. The compound or salt for use according to claim 1, wherein:

(a) R^4 is methoxy, R^2 is CH_2OCH_3 or $CH_2OCH_2CH_3$, and R^1 and R^3 are H;

(b) R^4 is methoxy, R^2 is phenyl, optionally substituted by methyl or methoxy, and R^1 and R^3
15 are H;

(c) R^4 is methoxy, R^2 is C_{5-6} heteroaryl, optionally substituted by methyl;

(d) R^4 is methoxy and R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are H;

(e) R^4 is chloro, R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl or bromo, and R^1 and R^3 are H;

(f) R^4 is chloro and R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H; or

20 (g) R^3 is C_{1-3} alkyl and R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H.

11. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein Ar is:

(a) phenyl, which may be optionally substituted;

(b) naphthyl, which may be optionally substituted; or

25 (c) a C_{5-10} heteroaryl group, which may be optionally substituted.

12. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, C_{1-2} alkoxy, NH_2 , C_{1-4} alkyl carbamoyl, or one or more fluoro groups.

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13. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by C_{3-6} cycloalkyl.

14. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by
35 hydroxy; cyano; $NR^{N3}R^{N4}$, where R^{N3} and R^{N4} are independently selected from H and methyl; or acylamido.

15. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by halo.

5 16. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by C₁₋₃ alkoxy, optionally substituted by hydroxy, C(O)NH₂, C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, phenyl, C₅₋₆ heteroaryl, or one of more fluoro groups.

10 17. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by phenoxy, optionally substituted by fluoro.

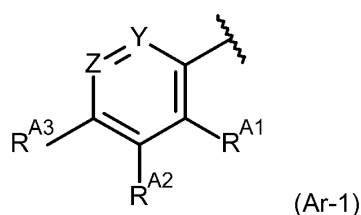
18. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by phenyl or C₅₋₆ heteroaryl.

15 19. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by SF₅ or SO₂CH₃.

20 20. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by -(CH₂)_n-Y-, where Y is O or CH₂, and n is 2 or 3.

21. The compound or salt for use according to claim 11, wherein Ar is substituted by C₁₋₄ alkyl ester.

25 22. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein Ar is represented by the formula (Ar-1):



where Y is either N or C-R^{A4}, and Z is either N or C-R^{A5}; and

R^{A1}, R^{A2}, R^{A3}, R^{A4} (if present) and R^{A5} (if present) are independently selected from H and the optional substituents for Ar.

30 23. The compound or salt for use according to claim 22, wherein:

(a) R^{A2} is ethyl; or

(b) R^{A3} is selected from cycloalkyl; phenoxy; phenyl; C₅₋₆ heteroaryl; SF₅; and SO₂CH₃.

24. The compound or salt for use according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein Ar is:

(a) 5-ethyl-2-methoxyphenyl;

5 (b) 5-CF₃-2-methoxyphenyl; or

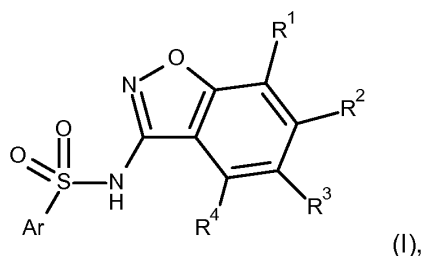
(c) 2,6-dimethoxyphenyl.

25. The compound or salt for use according to claim 1, with the proviso that when:

R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are H,

10 Ar is not 4-aminophenyl.

26. A compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutical salt thereof:



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and Ar are as defined in any one of claim 1 to 25.

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27. A compound according to claim 26, wherein:

(a) at least one of R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ is not H;

(b) R³ is not CF₃;

(c) R³ is not substituted C₁₋₃ alkyl;

20 (d) R³ is ethyl or propyl;

(e) R³ is not C₁₋₃ alkyl, optionally substituted by hydroxy, C₁₋₂ alkoxy, NH₂, phenyl, C₅₋₆ heteroaryl, C₁₋₄ alkyl carbamoyl, acylamido or by one or more fluoro groups;

(f) R⁴ is methoxy;

(g) R⁴ is Cl, and R¹, R² and R³ are H;

25 (h) R⁴ is Cl, and R² is C₁₋₃ alkyl or bromo, and R¹ and R³ are H; or

(i) R³ is C₁₋₃ alkyl and R¹, R² and R⁴ are H.

28. A compound according to claim 26, with the proviso that when:

(a) R¹, R² and R³ are H, and R⁴ is methoxy,

30 Ar is not unsubstituted naphthyl;

(b) R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are H,

5

- Ar is not 2,4,6-trimethylphenyl;
- (c) R^1 , R^2 and R^4 are H, and R^3 is CF_3 ,
Ar is not 2-(difluoromethoxy)phenyl;
- (d) R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are H,
Ar is not 4-fluoro-3-methyl-phenyl; or
- (e) R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are H,
Ar is not 4-aminophenyl.