[3-(1-(1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol] is described by Salonen, et al. in "Biotransformation of Medetomidine in the Rat" in *Xenobiotica* (1990), 20(5), 471-80.

PCT Int. Appl. WO 2010093930 A1 discloses [3-(1-(1*H*-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl]methanol and its (*S*) and (*R*) enantiomers

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

Figure 1 shows compound (S)-[3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl] methanol (**Compound 1**) has comparable efficacy to brimonidine (Alphagan P®) and has longer intraocular pressure duration than brimonidine.

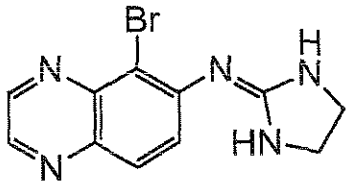
SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The adrenergic Alpha-2 agonists play a key role in modulating aqueous humor formation and facilitating aqueous outflow; as a result these compounds lower intraocular pressure (IOP) in glaucomatous patients. Two drugs are currently prescribed for glaucoma patients, Apraclonidine (Iopidine®) and Brimonidine (Alphagan P® available from Allergan, Inc.). While these drugs are effective at lowering elevated intraocular pressure, Alphagan P® is the only alpha-2 adrenergic approved only for a 3 times per day dosing regime while Iopidine® is only approved for short term IOP control. Considering the aged glaucoma patient population, a 3 times per day dosing frequency is far from optimal and may result in poor patient compliance.

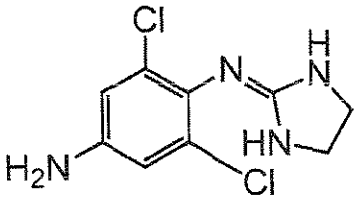
In a first aspect, there is provided the use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (S) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for lowering intraocular pressure, wherein the medicament is to be administered topically to the affected eye of a patient.

In a second aspect, there is provided the use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (S) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for lowering intraocular pressure, wherein the medicament is to be topically administered to the affected eye of a patient, as a single dose, and wherein the affected eye has an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure for at least eight (8) hours.

In a third aspect, there is provided the use of a pharmaceutical composition comprising (S) (3-(1-(1H-imidazol-4-yl)ethyl)-2-methylphenyl)methanol or a salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for lowering intraocular pressure of a patient, wherein the medicament is to be topically administered to the affected eye of said patient, once or twice daily, and wherein the affected eye maintains an intraocular pressure less than the baseline intraocular pressure, throughout the day.



Brimonidine



Apraclonidine

The present invention relates to a method of lowering intraocular pressure in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of [3-(1-(1*H*-imidazol-4-