

When equimolar amounts of N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-D,L-arginine are substituted for the N<sup>G</sup>-nitro-L-arginine in Examples I or II, pure N<sup>G</sup>-amino-D,L-arginine is obtained.

When in Examples III and IV, N<sup>G</sup>-amino-D,L-arginine is substituted for N<sup>G</sup>-amino-L-arginine in twice the dosage or concentration, substantially equal results of diastolic blood pressure increase and inhibition of vascular ring relaxation are obtained.

Many variations of inventive embodiments will be obvious to those skilled in the art. Thus, the inventive 10 embodiments are defined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

- 1. Pharmaceutically pure N<sup>G</sup>-amino-L-arginine in the free base form.
- 2. Pharmaceutically pure, pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt of N<sup>G</sup>-amino-L-arginine or mixtures thereof with N<sup>G</sup>-amino-L-arginine in the free base form.
- 3. The salt of claim 2 which is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, 20 acetic acid, gluconic acid, phosphoric acid, succinic acid, maleic acid and citric acid addition salts.
- 4. A composition containing more than 99.9% by weight (on a water-free basis) of agent selected from the group consisting of N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine containing L- 25

enantiomer thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of said N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine.

5. The composition of claim 4 wherein the agent is N<sup>G</sup>-containing L-enantiomer thereof, said N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine being in the free base form.

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein the N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine is constituted of from 50% to 100% L-enantiomer with any remainder being D-enantiomer.

7. The composition of claim 5 wherein the N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine is constituted of 50% L-enantiomer and 50% D-enantiomer.

8. The composition of claim 4 wherein said agent is said pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt and is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, gluconic acid, phosphoric acid, succinic acid, maleic acid and citric acid addition salts.

9. The composition of claim 8 wherein said agent is acid addition salt of N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine which is constituted of from 50% to 100% L-enantiomer with the remainder being D-enantiomer.

10. The composition of claim 9 wherein said agent is acid addition salt of N<sup>G</sup>-aminoarginine which is constituted of 50% L-enantiomer and 50% D-enantiomer.

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