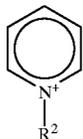


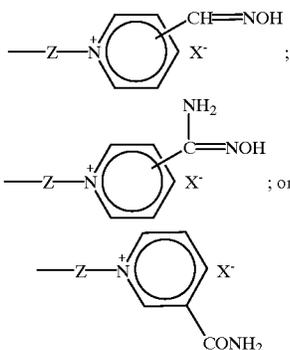
5

having from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms in the heterocyclic ring and X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid;

(d) a compound defined by the formula $(R^1CR=NOH) X^-$ where R is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or NH_2 and R^1 is



wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:



where Z is a polyalkylene group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally including at least one ether linkage, or $-(CH_2)_n$ -phenyl- $(CH_2)_n$ - where n ranges from 1 to 6 and the phenyl moiety may be optionally substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, and wherein X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid;

(e) a pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug derivative of a compound defined in (a), (b), (c) and (d) above; and (f) mixtures thereof.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of monoquaternary oximes, bisquaternary oximes, and triquaternary oximes.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is an oxime salt.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said salt is an acid addition salt selected from the group consisting of a chloride, iodide and methanesulfonate salt.

5. The method of claim 3 wherein said active agent is a chloride salt of an oxime.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said active agent is 2-pyridine aldoxime methochloride (2-PAM Cl).

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of 1-methyl-pyridinium-2-aldoxime (2-PAM), 2,3-butanedione-2-oxime (DAM), pyruvaldehyde aldoxime (MINA), bis quaternary pyridine aldoxime (TMD-4), pharmaceutically acceptable prodrug derivatives thereof and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6

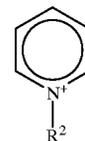
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said mammal is a human and said active agent is administered in an amount within the range of from about 1 to 10 mg per 70 kg body weight.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is defined by the formula $(R^1-CR=NOH)^+ X^-$ where R is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or NH_2 , R^1 is C_{1-5} alkyl and X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid.

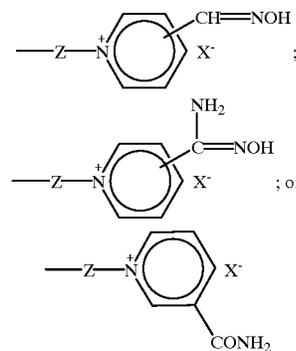
10. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is defined by the formula $(R^1-CR=NOH)^+ X^-$ where R is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or NH_2 , R^1 is aryl and X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is defined by the formula $(R^1-CR=NOH)^+ X^-$ where R is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or NH_2 and R^1 is a 5 or 6 membered heterocyclic moiety having from 1 to 3 nitrogen atoms in the heterocyclic ring and X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said active agent is defined by the formula $R^1CR=NOH) X^-$ where R is hydrogen, C_{1-5} alkyl or NH_2 and R^1 is



wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of:



where Z is a polyalkylene group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, optionally including at least one ether linkage, or $-(CH_2)_n$ -phenyl- $(CH_2)_n$ - where n ranges from 1 to 6 and the phenyl moiety may be optionally substituted by C_{1-5} alkyl, and wherein X^- is a pharmaceutically acceptable anion derived from a salt of an inorganic acid or a salt of an organic acid.

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