ders, tinctures, aerosol emulsions, creams, ointments, sprays, jellies or supporitories.

Dosage levels of the order to 0.2 mg to 140 mg per kilogram of body weight per day are useful in the treatment of the above-indicated conditions (10 mg to 7 gms per patient per day). For example, inflammation may be effectively treated by the administration from about 0.5 to 50 mg of the compound per kilogram of body weight per day (25 mg to 5 gms per patient per day). Advantageously, from about 2 mg to about 20 mg per kilogram of body weight per daily dosage produces highly effective results (50 mg to 1 gm per patient per day).

It will be understood, however, that the specific dose level for any particular patient will depend upon a variety of factors including the activity of the specific compound employed, the age, body weight, general health, sex, diet, time of administration, route of administration, rate of excretion, drug combination and the severity of the particular disease undergoing therapy.

EXAMPLE 1

2-(((1,4-Dimethyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenolyl

To a solution of potassium hydroxide (7.54 g, 134 mmal) in absolute ethanol (500 ml) was added 1,4-dimethylimidazole-2-thiol(14.4 g, 112 mmol). The solution of the potassium salt was concentrated to dryness, taken up in dry dimethylformamide (100 ml) and added to a solution of 2-hydroxymethyl-4-methoxyphenol diacetate (27.7 g, 116 mmal) in dimethylformamide (125 ml). The mixture was allowed to stir at room temperature for ninety minutes, then worked up by pouring into water (800 ml) and basifying with 2.5N sodium hydroxide (45 ml). The suponification was allowed to proceed for ten minutes, then diluted with water (1000 ml) and adjusted to pH 8 with 3N hydrochlorine acid. The aqueous mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (4×400 ml), and the combined extracts were dried (Na_2SO_4) and concentrated. Chromatography over silica (2:1 hexane:ethyl acetate as elevant) afforded 2-(((1,4-dimethyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl-4-methoxyphenol (15.7 g, 53%). Recrystallization from hexane/methylene chloride afforded the pure product, mp 111°–112° C.

EXAMPLE 2

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 4(5)-methylimidazole-2-thione (2.45 g, 21.5 mmal) was converted to 2-((4-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)-methyl-4-methoxyphenol (0.39 g, 7%) mp 116°–118° C.

EXAMPLE 3

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 1,5-dimethylimidazole-2-thione (2.77 g, 21.6 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl-4-methoxyphenol (2.10 g, 37%) mp 121°–122° C.

EXAMPLE 4

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 1-methyl-4-phenylimidazole-2-thione (3.32 g, 17.5 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1-methyl-4-phenyl-1H-imidazole-2yl)thio)methyl)-4methoxyphenyl (2.4 g, 42%) mp 140°–141.5° C.

EXAMPLE 5

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 1-methyl-4-((1,1-dimethylethyl)-imidazole-2-thione (1.85 g, 10.9 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1-methyl-4-((1,1-dimethylethyl)-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (1.7 g, 51%). mp 154°–156° C.

EXAMPLE 6

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 1-phenyl-4-methylimidazole-2-thione (2.06 g, 10.9 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1-phenyl-4-methyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (290 mg, 8%). mp 90°–92° C.

EXAMPLE 7

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 4,5-di-phenylimidazole-2-thione (8.07 g, 32.0 mmal) was converted to 2-(((4,5-diphenyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (3.50 g, 28%). mp 184°–186° C.

EXAMPLE 8

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, 1-methyl-5-phenylimidazole-2-thione (1.55 g, 8.2 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1-methyl-5-phenyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (830 mg, 32%).

EXAMPLE 9

In an analogous manner to that described in Example 1, benzimidazole-2-thione (3.04 g, 20.3 mmal) was converted to 2-(((1H-benzimidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (2.5 g, 43%). mp 161°–164° C.

EXAMPLE 10

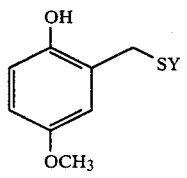
In a manner analogous to Example 1, 1,5-dimethylimidazole-2-thione (0.80 g, 6.25 mmal) was treated with 6-hydroxy-7-hydroxymethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrobenzopyran diacetate (1.70 g, 6.25 mmal) to afford 7-(((1,5-dimethyl-1H-imidazole-2-yl)thio)methyl)-6-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydrobenzopyran (480 mg, 26%) mp 139°–140° C.

EXAMPLE 11

In an analogous manner to Example 1, pyrimidine-2-thiol (3.0 g, 26.7 mmal) was converted to 2-(((pyrimidine-2-yl)thio)methyl)-4-methoxyphenyl (900 mg, 13%), mp 67° C.

What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof wherein

Y is