

[54] **METHOD OF USING ARGININE DERIVATIVES TO INHIBIT SYSTEMIC HYPOTENSION ASSOCIATED WITH NITRIC OXIDE PRODUCTION OR ENDOTHELIAL DERIVED RELAXING FACTOR**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

A method for prophylaxis of treatment of an animal for systemic hypotension induced by internal nitrogen oxide production. The method involves administering a therapeutically effective amount of certain arginine derivatives to inhibit nitrogen oxide formation from arginine. Preferably N^G-substituted arginine or an N^G,N^G-disubstituted arginine (having at least one hydrogen on a terminal guanidino amino group replaced by another atomic species) is administered to an animal possibly developing or already having induced systemic hypotension. The arginine derivatives are preferably of the L configuration and include pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts. Prophylaxis or treatment or systemic hypotension in a patient which has been induced by chemotherapeutic treatment with biologic response modifiers such as tumor necrosis factor or interleukin-2 may be accomplished. Treatment of an animal for systemic hypotension induced by endotoxin, i.e., septic shock may also be accomplished by treatment with the arginine derivatives.

43 Claims, 15 Drawing Sheets

