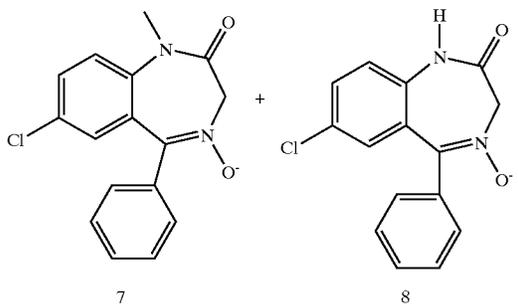
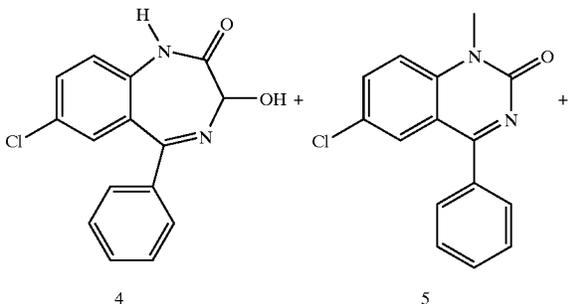
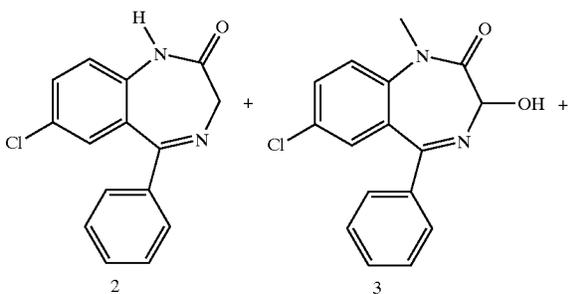


9

-continued



To 240 μ L of a solution containing 25 μ mol of diazepam (1) in trifluorotoluene is added 10 μ L of a 25 mM solution of 5,10,15,20-tetrakis(pentafluorophenyl)-21H,23H-porphyrin manganese (III) chloride (0.25 μ mol, 1 mol %) and 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol (1.1 μ L, 10.4 μ mol, 0.4 equiv.) in trifluorotoluene. To the resulting stirring solution is added dropwise an aqueous solution of 30% hydrogen peroxide (2.6 μ L, 25 μ mol, 1 equiv.), imidazole (6.5 μ L of a 1 M aqueous solution, 6.5 μ mol, 0.25 equiv.) and ammonium acetate (25 μ L of a 1 M solution, 25 μ mol, 1 equiv.) over two hours. Thirty minutes after the addition, the reaction is monitored by analytical HPLC in the same manner as in Example 1. One equivalent of 30% aqueous hydrogen peroxide (2.6 μ L, 25 μ mol, 1 equiv.) is then added every 10 minutes until 15 equivalents of oxidant are used. The reaction is monitored after the addition of 2, 5, 10 and 15 equiv. of hydrogen peroxide. Diazepam N-oxide (7) (retention time 8.4 min) and nordiazepam N-oxide (8) (6.7 min) are identified by comparison with samples prepared from the reaction of diazepam and nordiazepam with m-chloroperbenzoic acid (cf. Ebel et al (1979) *Arzneim-Forsch.* 29, 1317).

Yields of products from the reaction are shown in the following table:

10

H ₂ O ₂ (equiv.)	Products obtained: Yield (%)						
	1	2	3	4	5	7	8
1	71	4	7	0	1	5	0
2	58	8	10	1	1	9	1
5	41	10	13	1	3	10	1
10	26	10	12	2	5	8	2
15	19	10	14	2	8	6	2

Results from the analogous reaction performed in 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/CH₃CN, instead of trifluorotoluene and hexafluoroisopropanol as co-solvent, are shown below:

H ₂ O ₂ (equiv.)	Products obtained: Yield (%)			
	1	2	3	7
1	84	1	1	2
2	77	2	1	3
5	74	5	3	6
10	74	6	7	7
15	74	5	9	7

When the oxidation is performed with hydrogen peroxide in a biphasic system, better diazepam conversion and yields in products are obtained with trifluorotoluene in the presence of hexafluoroisopropanol in place of the dichloromethane/acetonitrile solvent system.

Preliminary results from additional experiments currently underway confirm the efficacy of the process of the invention for the oxidation of compounds with relatively different structural parameters.

What is claimed is:

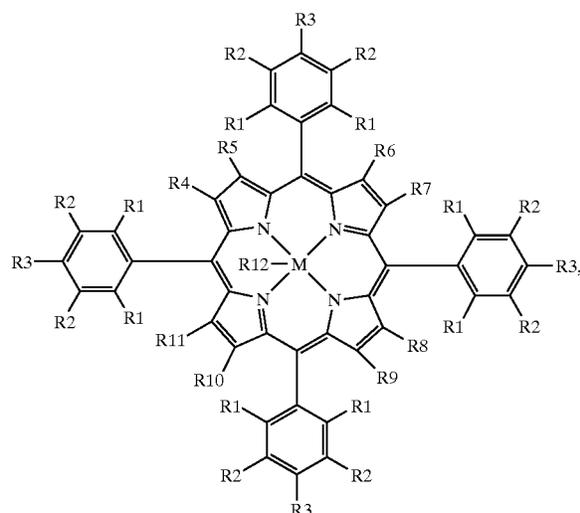
1. A process for obtaining potential metabolites of a drug, the process comprising:

reacting a drug with an oxidizing agent in a reaction medium comprising a metalloporphyrin and an inert aromatic solvent;

recovering reaction products; and

identifying the reaction products;

wherein the metalloporphyrin is represented by formula 1,



65