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[54] **TREATMENT OF AORTIC AND VASCULAR ANEURYSMS WITH TETRACYCLINE COMPOUNDS**

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[58] **Field of Search** 514/152

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[57] ABSTRACT

A method for inhibiting the formation and progression of abnormal vascular dilatation and/or aneurysms. The method includes administering a tetracycline compound to a mammal in an amount which is effective against the formation or progression of aneurysm, or which is effective to induce regression of an established abnormal dilatation or aneurysm. The method is of particular advantage in the treatment of mammals having an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a relatively common, and life-threatening, condition. Further, there is provided a method for inhibiting elastolytic activity in vascular tissue, to diminish excessive proteolytic degradation of vascular elastic tissues, wherein such degradation is associated with abnormal vascular dilatation or aneurysm. Also provided is an apparatus for treating mammals suffering from an abnormal vascular dilatation and/or aneurysm.

15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets