

the listed doses of N^G-amino-L-arginine to cause comparable inhibition of vascular ring relaxation.

When equimolar amounts of N^G-nitro-D,L-arginine are substituted for the N^G-nitro-L-arginine in Examples I or II, pure N^G-amino-D,L-arginine is obtained.

When in Examples III and IV, N^G-amino-D,L-arginine is substituted for N^G-amino-L-arginine in twice the dosage or concentration, substantially equal results of diastolic blood pressure increase and inhibition of vascular ring relaxation are obtained.

Many variations of inventive embodiments will be obvious to those skilled in the art. Thus, the inventive embodiments are defined by the claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling the biosynthesis, metabolism or physiological role of nitric oxide in vitro, comprising adding physiologically active N^G-aminoarginine or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof to a medium containing isolated organs, intact cells, cell homogenates or tissue homogenates from mammals at a concentration sufficient to inhibit nitric oxide formation from arginine.

* * * * *

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

60

65