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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING OXYCODONE

(57) Abstract: Oxycodone is manufactured in high yields and with a high purity using 5 codeine or a salt of codeine as the starting material. The manufacturing process involves the following steps: (a) codeine or a codeine salt (e.g., codeine phosphate) is converted into the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryloxynorcodeine; (b) the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryloxynorcodeine resulting from step (a) is oxidized to yield the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryl-oxynorcodeinone; (c) the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryloxynorcodeinone resulting from step (b) is enolized with a base and the resultant enolate is thereafter methylated to yield the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryloxy northebaine; (d) the intermediate N-carboalkoxy- or N-carboaryloxynorthebaine resulting from step (c) is reduced to yield thebaine; (e) the thebaine resulting from step (d) is oxidized to yield the intermediate 14-hydroxycodeinone; and (f) the intermediate 14-hydroxycodeinone resulting from step (e) is hydrogenated to yield oxycodone.



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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,090,943 A (MUDRYK et al.) 18 July 2000 (18.07.2000), column 1, lines 45-65.	1-18
Y	US 5,112,975 A (WALLACE) 12 May 1992 (12.05.1992), column 2 lines 2+.	1-18
Y	US 4,472,253 A (SCHWARTZ) 18 September 1984 (19.09.1984), column 1 lines 10+.	1-18
Y	US 4,045,440 A (RAPOPORT et al.) 30 August 1977 (30.08.1977), abstract.	1-18
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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