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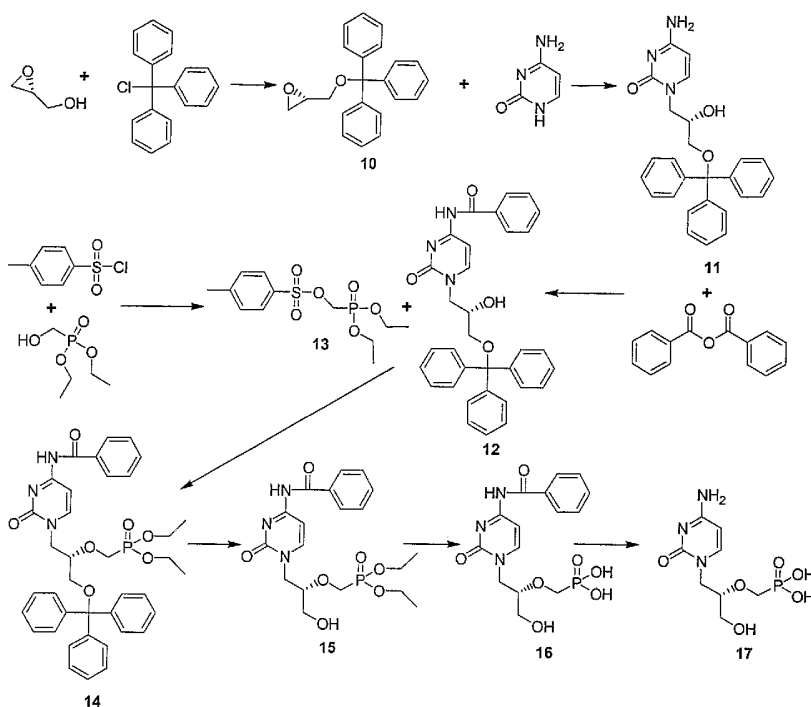
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(54) Title: CIDOFOVIR PEPTIDE CONJUGATES AS PRODRUGS



(57) Abstract: Cidofovir-based compounds having an amino acid, dipeptide or tripeptide attached to a cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir framework. The compounds show enhanced oral bioavailability and increased binding to the PepT1 transporter. The present invention also provides compositions and methods for treating virus infections, and a method of preparing cidofovir.

WO 2006/014429 A2

CIDOFOVIR PEPTIDE CONJUGATES AS PRODRUGS

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/585,265, filed on July 2, 2004.

BACKGROUND

Field of Invention

[0002] This invention relates generally to enhancing the oral bioavailability of the cytosine-based antiviral drug cidofovir.

Related Art

[0003] The prodrug approach has been utilized widely since the late 1950s for increasing drug bioavailability as well as drug targeting after oral administration. A prodrug is a compound that undergoes transformation within the body before eliciting a therapeutic action. This strategy is based on chemically modifying an active substance by attaching pro-moieties to pharmacophores, which ideally should overcome the biochemical and physical barriers impeding drug transport of the parent substance. Limited oral bioavailability is usually attributed to poor membrane permeability, low aqueous solubility (in the gastrointestinal fluids), or extensive first-pass metabolism.

[0004] It was long thought that intestinal absorption of most drugs proceeded by passive diffusion, in which the lipid solubility of the drug molecule was the determining factor. However, many water-soluble compounds have been shown to move well across cell membranes utilizing specialized carrier-mediated transport mechanisms. These membrane transporters play a key role in determining exposure of cells or organisms to a variety of solutes including nutrients and cellular byproducts, as well as drug molecules. Efforts have been made to improve drug bioavailability by using different pro-moieties targeting various active transportation systems present in the small intestine. Examples of transportation systems include peptide transporters, organic cation transporters, organic anion transporters, glucose transporters, vitamin transporters, bile acid transporters, fatty acid transporters,

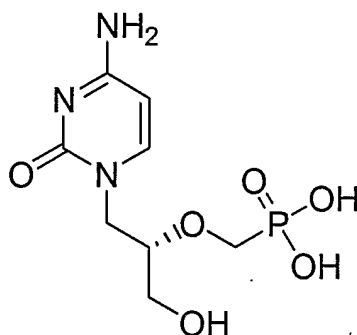
phosphate transporters, monocarboxylic acid transporters, bicarbonate transporters, ABC transporters, nucleoside transporters and amino acid transporters, as described by H.-C. Shi et al, in: R.Mannhold, H. Kubinyi, G. Folkers, Eds., *Methods and Principles in Medicinal Chemistry*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2003; pp. 245-287, herein incorporated by reference. All of these transporters are mainly located in the brush border membrane with variable distribution along the gastrointestinal tract, and show diverse substrate specificities.

[0005] The peptide transporter-1 (PepT1) is known to play a critical role in the absorption of diverse drugs and prodrugs from the intestinal tract. PepT1 is located in the apical enterocytic membrane of the upper small intestine where it serves as a symporter, using an electrochemical proton gradient as its driving force. Human PepT1 (hPepT1) contains 708 amino acids oriented in 12 membrane-spanning domains. The hPepT1 carrier protein is stereoselective, with peptides that contain L-amino acid residues having higher affinity for binding and transport than peptides containing one or more D-amino acids.

[0006] Many pharmaceuticals are known to utilize the intestinal PepT1 to gain entry into the systematic circulation. Such pharmaceuticals include β -lactam antibiotics such as penicillins and cephalosporins, ACE-inhibitors, renin inhibitors, thrombin inhibitors, and the dipeptide-like anti-neoplastic drug bestatin, as well as prodrugs of ganciclovir L-Dopa and pamidronate. Valacyclovir is one example of a prodrug enhancing bioavailability (3- to 5-fold) compared to the parent drug (20%), acyclovir. The increased bioavailability is suggested to result from PepT1 mediated absorption and rapid hydrolysis to acyclovir. Since PepT1 is an important di/tri peptide transporter in human enterocytes, the transportation of hundreds of different possible dipeptides, thousands of possible tripeptides, and diverse drugs and prodrugs, implies broad substrate specificity for this transporter.

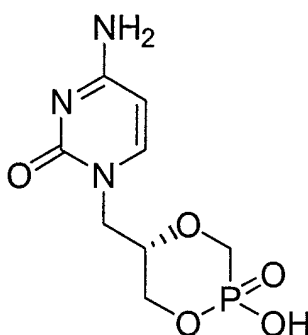
[0007] Cidofovir [(S)-1-(3-hydroxy-2-phosphonylmethoxypropyl)cytosine, HPMPC] has been approved in the clinic as a treatment for AIDS-related cytomegalovirus retinitis. Cidofovir is known for its broad-spectrum activity against virtually all DNA viruses. It has been shown to have therapeutic potential not only against cytomegalovirus, but also against other herpes viruses such as herpes simplex virus (HSV), varicella-zoster virus (VZV), Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and human herpes virus types 6, 7, and 8. It also has anti-viral activity against adenoviruses, papovaviruses such as papillomavirus and polyomavirus, pox viruses such as variola virus (the etiological agent for small pox) and other orthopox viruses such as monkeypox virus, hepadnaviruses such as hepatitis B virus, and iridiovirus.

[0008] The basic structure of cidofovir is shown in formula (I).



(I)

[0009] There is also a cyclic form of cidofovir. Cyclic cidofovir has a six-membered ring having two oxygen atoms, as shown in formula (II).



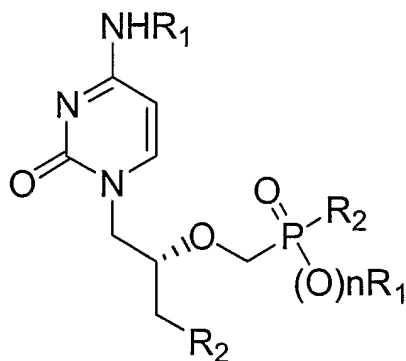
(II)

[0010] The potential use of variola virus and monkeypox virus as bioterrorism weapons has stimulated efforts to develop new drugs for treatment of smallpox and other pox infections. Cidofovir has been approved for use in the treatment of smallpox. Although, cidofovir is a very active agent against orthopoxviruses in vitro and in animal model infections; it does not show activity when administered orally due to lack of bioavailability via the oral route. Thus, cidofovir must be given systemically by injection or intravenously. Accordingly, there is a need to develop cidofovir-based drugs with enhanced oral bioavailability.

SUMMARY

[0011] The present invention concerns cidofovir-based compounds showing enhanced oral bioavailability. More particularly, in one aspect, the present invention provides a compound comprising a chemical moiety attached to cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir, where the chemical moiety promotes uptake of the compound by a gastrointestinal tract membrane transporter, or other membrane transporter, thereby enhancing oral bioavailability. Examples of membrane transporters include peptide transporters, organic cation transporters, organic anion transporters, glucose transporters, vitamin transporters, bile acid transporters, fatty acid transporters, phosphate transporters, monocarboxylic acid transporters, bicarbonate transporters, ABC transporters, nucleoside transporters and amino acid transporters. Other transporters are also envisioned.

[0012] In another aspect, the present invention provides a cidofovir-based compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, that targets the PepT1 transporter. The compound has the structure of formula (III):



(III)

where each R₁ is H, an amino acid residue, a dipeptide, a tripeptide, or a derivative of an amino acid residue, dipeptide or tripeptide, n is 0 or 1, and both R₂s are either OH or taken together constitute a linkage forming a ring structure having two oxygen atoms in a six-membered ring. In the compound of formula (III), one R₁ is H and the other R₁ is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof.

[0013] The attachment of an amino acid or peptide to cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir promotes the uptake of cidofovir-based compounds by the gastrointestinal tract. Following uptake, the cidofovir-based compounds can undergo chemical or enzymatic reactions that

remove the amino acid or peptide moieties, thus regenerating cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir. As a result, the cidofovir-based compounds of the present invention can act as cidofovir prodrugs having enhanced oral bioavailability.

[0014] The present invention further provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the cidofovir-based compounds of the present invention, and methods of using such compounds in treating viral infections. Also provided is a novel way to synthesize cidofovir that overcomes the low yield in a previous synthesis method. In addition, the present invention provides a method of attaching an amino acid to a pentavalent phosphate group, and in particular to the pentavalent phosphate group of cidofovir.

[0015] The novel features which are believed to be characteristic of the invention, both as to its organization and method of operation, together with further objects and advantages will be better understood from the following description when considered in connection with the accompanying figures. It is to be expressly understood, however, that each of the figures is provided for the purpose of illustration and description only and is not intended as a definition of the limits of the present invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[0016] Figure 1 shows the reaction scheme for synthesizing an amino acid linked to phosphonoformic acid;

[0017] Figure 2 shows the structures of various cidofovir-based compounds; and

[0018] Figure 3 shows the reaction scheme for synthesizing cidofovir.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0019] In the cidofovir-based compound of formula (III), each R_1 can be H, or an amino acid residue, a dipeptide, a tripeptide, or derivative thereof. The term "amino acid residue" means an amino acid lacking a portion of its structure. Examples include an amino acid without the OH portion of the α -carboxyl group, or lacking the H portion of the α -amino group. Also included within the definition of an amino acid residue is an amino acid lacking a portion of its side chain, such as a serine amino acid lacking the H portion of the side chain -OH group.

[0020] A derivative of an amino acid residue is an amino acid residue having a portion of its structure substituted by an atom or molecular group. Examples of such derivatives include, but are not limited to, ester derivatives having an -OR group substituting for the α -carboxyl -OH group, where R is an alkyl or alkenyl group. In preferred

embodiments, R is a C₁–C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group. A dipeptide or tripeptide derivative is a peptide that contains at least one derivative of an amino acid residue.

[0021] An amino acid residue can be based on any one of the twenty common amino acids found in naturally synthesized proteins as long as the residue provides for the oral bioavailability of a cidofovir-based compound of the present invention. The residue can also be based on a modified or unusual amino acid. Examples of modified or unusual amino acids include, but are not limited to, 2-amino adipic acid, 3-amino adipic acid, β-alanine, 2-aminobutyric acid, piperidinic acid, 6-aminocaproic acid, 2-aminoheptanoic acid, 2-aminoisobutyric acid, 3-aminoisobutyric acid, 2-aminopimelic acid, 2,4-diaminobutyric acid, desmosine, 2,2'-diaminopimelic acid, 2,3-diaminopropionic acid, N-ethylglycine, N-ethylasparagine, hydroxylysine, allo-hydroxylysine, 3-hydroxyproline, 4-hydroxyproline, isodesmosine, isodesmosine, N-methylglycine, N-methylisoleucine, N-methylvaline, norvaline, norleucine, ornithine and homoserine.

[0022] Similarly, a dipeptide or tripeptide can contain any of the twenty common amino acids and any of the modified or unusual amino acids as long as the dipeptide and tripeptide support the oral bioavailability of the cidofovir-based compounds of the present invention.

[0023] Both the (D) and (L) stereoisomers of an amino acid residue can be incorporated into the cidofovir-based compounds. When the configuration is not designated, the amino acid or residue can have the configuration (D), (L) or (DL). For the purposes of this application, unless expressly noted to the contrary, a named amino acid shall be construed to include both the (D) or (L) stereoisomers. In preferred embodiments, when R₁ is an amino acid residue or a peptide, R₁ is prepared from L-amino acids.

[0024] In general, the incorporation of one or more amino acids into cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir leads to stereoisomeric forms of the cidofovir-based compounds. The present invention contemplates all such forms of the compounds, including cis- and trans-isomers, R- and S-enantiomers, diastereomers, (D)-isomers, (L)-isomers, the racemic mixtures thereof, and other mixtures thereof, as falling within the scope of the invention. Additional asymmetric carbon atoms may be present in a substituent such as an alkyl group. All such isomers, as well as mixtures thereof, are intended to be included in this invention. Preferred embodiments are individual isomeric forms of the cidofovir-based compounds, which can be isolated for example by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

[0025] The term “cidofovir framework” or “cyclic cidofovir framework” refers to the portion of cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir that remains following attachment of a chemical moiety that promotes uptake by a gastrointestinal membrane transporter or otherwise enhances oral bioavailability.

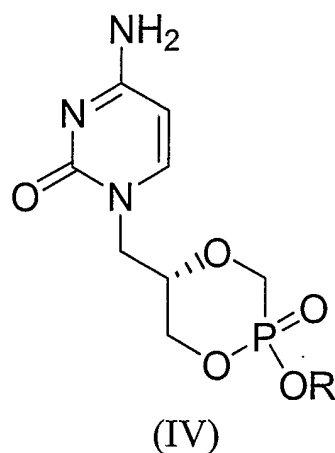
[0026] The term “cidofovir-based compound” refers to both cidofovir and cyclic cidofovir derived compounds.

[0027] In the compound of formula (III), R_1 can be attached to the cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir framework at N, O or P by an α -amino or side chain nitrogen, α -carboxyl carbon or side chain of R_1 when R_1 is an amino acid residue or a peptide. When R_1 is a peptide, the term “ α -amino or side chain nitrogen, α -carboxyl carbon or side chain of R_1 ” refers to an α -amino or side chain nitrogen, α -carboxyl carbon or side chain of any amino acid residue of the peptide.

[0028] One way of preparing a compound having an amino acid or a peptide linked to a pentavalent phosphate group is shown by Marma, M.S. et al., *Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters* 2004, 14, 1787-1790, herein incorporated by reference. As shown in this reference, an amino acid can be linked to the pentavalent phosphate group of phosphonoformic acid (foscarnet; PFA) by the 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC)-promoted coupling of a dianionic PFA C-monoester with a C-ethyl protected L-amino acid in aqueous solution under neutral to slightly alkaline conditions.

[0029] Exemplary embodiments of the present invention based on the compound of formula (III) are presented in Figure 2. These examples show different types of bonding of R_1 to the cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir framework when R_1 is an amino acid residue or a peptide. In particular, structures 1 and 2 of Figure 2 show a valine residue connected to P by an α -amino nitrogen, structure 3 shows a valine residue attached to N by an α -carboxyl carbon, and structures 4-9 show a serine residue connected to O by the serine side chain.

[0030] Another embodiment of the present invention is a cidofovir-based compound of formula (IV), where R is an amino acid residue, a dipeptide, a tripeptide, or a derivative thereof.



[0031] In the compound of formula (IV), R is preferably connected to the cyclic cidofovir framework by the side chain of an L-serine, L-threonine or L-tyrosine residue, or a derivative thereof. In preferred embodiments, R is connected by the side chain of an L-serine residue or a derivative of an L-serine residue. Particularly preferred serine residue derivatives are ester derivatives having an OR group instead of an α -carboxyl -OH group, where R is a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group. A serine derivative of this sort is designated herein as a Ser-CO₂-R ester. Structures 4, 6, 7 and 9 of Figure 2 provide examples of Ser-CO₂-methyl ester derivatives, while structure 8 provides an example of a Ser-CO₂-ethyl ester derivative.

[0032] When R is a dipeptide, the serine residue is preferably the C-terminal residue. By convention, this dipeptide can be represented as X-Ser, where X is the N-terminal residue. In other embodiments, the dipeptide can be represented by Ser-X, where the serine residue is the N-terminal residue. Exemplary embodiments of dipeptides containing serine residues or serine residue derivatives are shown in structures 4-9 of Figure 2. Although X can be any amino acid residue or amino acid residue derivative that provides for oral bioavailability, X preferably has a hydrophobic side chain. In particularly preferred embodiments, X is L-valine, L-leucine, L-alanine, L-phenylalanine, L-isoleucine, L-glycine, or a derivative of one of these residues. Preferably, X has a free amino terminus.

[0033] When R is a tripeptide, the peptide preferably has the sequence X₁-X₂-Ser or the sequence X₁-Ser-X₂, where X₁ and X₂ are each independently any amino acid residue or derivative that supports oral bioavailability. In other embodiments, the peptide can have the sequence Ser-X₁-X₂. As with dipeptides, X₁ and X₂ are preferably hydrophobic amino

acids, with L-valine, L-leucine, L-alanine, L-phenylalanine, L-isoleucine, L-glycine, or a derivative of one of these residues being most preferred. In addition, the N-terminal residue X₁ preferably has a free amino terminus.

[0034] The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a cidofovir-based compound of the present invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. A therapeutically effective amount is an amount that results in an improvement or a desired change in condition for which the cidofovir compound is administered, when the compound is administered once or over a period of time. For example, with respect to virus infections, the improvement can be a lowering of virus titer, or a reduction in the symptoms or discomfort associated with a viral infection. As is known, the amount will vary depending on such particulars as the type of virus infection, the condition being treated, the specific cidofovir compound utilized, the severity of the condition, and the characteristics of the patient.

[0035] Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are well known in the art and include salts prepared from pharmaceutically acceptable non-toxic acids, including inorganic acids and organic acids. Suitable non-toxic acids include inorganic and organic acids such as acetic, benzenesulfonic, benzoic, camphorsulfonic, citric, ethenesulfonic, fumaric, gluconic, glutamic, hydrobromic, hydrochloric, isethionic, lactic, maleic, malic, mandelic, methanesulfonic, mucic, nitric, pamoic, pantothenic, phosphoric, succinic, sulfuric, tartaric acid, p-toluenesulfonic, hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, sulfuric acids, and the like. Salts formed with, for example, a free carboxy group of an amino acid residue or a peptide, can be derived from inorganic bases including, but not limited to, sodium, potassium, ammonium, calcium or ferric hydroxides, and organic bases including, but not limited to, isopropylamine, trimethylamine, histidine, and procaine.

[0036] A pharmaceutical composition of the present invention will typically contain a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Although oral administration of a cidofovir-based compound of the present invention is the preferred route of administration, other means of administration such as nasal, topical or rectal administration, or by injection or inhalation, are also contemplated. Depending on the intended mode of administration, the pharmaceutical compositions may be in the form of solid, semi-solid or liquid dosage forms, such as, for example, tablets, suppositories, pills, capsules, powders, liquids, suspensions, ointments or lotions, preferably in unit dosage form suitable for single administration of a precise dosage. The compositions can include an effective amount of the selected cidofovir-based compound in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and, in addition,

may include other pharmaceutical agents such as another anti-viral agents, adjuvants, diluents, buffers, and the like. The compounds may thus be administered in dosage formulations containing conventional non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, adjuvants and vehicles. The amount of active compound administered will be dependent on the subject being treated, the subject's weight, the manner of administration and the judgment of the prescribing physician.

[0037] For solid compositions, conventional nontoxic solid carriers include, for example, pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharin, talc, cellulose, glucose, sucrose, magnesium carbonate, and the like. Liquid pharmaceutically administrable compositions can, for example, be prepared by dissolving, dispersing, etc., an active compound as described herein and optional pharmaceutical adjuvants in an excipient, such as, for example, water, saline, aqueous dextrose, glycerol, ethanol, and the like, to thereby form a solution or suspension. If desired, the pharmaceutical composition to be administered may also contain minor amounts of nontoxic auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents and the like, for example, sodium acetate, sorbitan mono-laurate, triethanolamine sodium acetate, triethanolamine oleate, etc. Actual methods of preparing such dosage forms are known, or will be apparent, to those skilled in this art. For oral administration, the composition will generally take the form of a tablet or capsule, or may be an aqueous or nonaqueous solution, suspension or syrup. Tablets and capsules for oral use will generally include one or more commonly used carriers such as lactose and corn starch. Lubricating agents, such as magnesium stearate, are also typically added. When liquid suspensions are used, the active agent may be combined with emulsifying and suspending agents. If desired, flavoring, coloring and/or sweetening agents may be added as well. Other optional components for incorporation into an oral formulation herein include, but are not limited to, preservatives, suspending agents, thickening agents, and the like.

[0038] The present invention also provides a method of treating a virus infection, comprising administering to a virus-infected individual a therapeutically effective amount of a cidofovir-based compound of the present invention. The preferred route of administration is oral. Preferably, the virus infection is caused by a member of the polyomaviridae, papillomaviridae, adenoviridae, iridoviridae, hepadnaviridae, poxviridae or herpesviridae families. More preferably, the virus infection is a smallpox virus infection, a cytomegalovirus infection, a hepatitis B virus or an adenovirus infection.

[0039] The present invention may be better understood by referring to the accompanying examples, which are intended for illustration purposes only and should not in any sense be construed as limiting the scope of the invention as defined in the claims appended hereto.

EXAMPLE 1

Synthesis of cidofovir [(S)-1-(3-hydroxy-2-phosphonylmethoxypropyl)cytosine, HPMPC]

[0040] A procedure from the literature for synthesizing cidofovir (P.R. Brodfuehrer, et al., Tetrahedron Lett. 35, 1994, 3243-3246, herein incorporated by reference) was modified. The modified synthesis reaction is shown in Figure 3. The literature procedure of reacting tritylated R-glycidol and benzoyl protected cytosine produced low yields. Therefore, as shown in Figure 3, tritylated R-glycidol (compound 10), (5.0 mmol) was treated with unprotected cytosine (5.0 mmol) in the presence of K₂CO₃ (5.0 mmol) in DMF (20 mL) for 5h at 105 °C to obtain regiospecific opening of the epoxide, giving compound 11, (S)-N¹-[(2-hydroxy-3-triphenylmethoxy) propyl]cytosine). A benzoyl moiety was then introduced by reacting compound 11 (3.6 mmol) and benzoic anhydride (1.2 eq) in pyridine (15.5 mL) and DMF (8 mL) at 10°C for 3 h to obtain the desired product, compound 12, (S)-N¹-[(3-triphenylmethoxy-2-hydroxy)propyl]-N⁴-benzoylcytosine. The other steps of the synthesis were carried out as described by Brodfuehrer *et al.*

EXAMPLE 2

Synthesis of a compound having valine linked to the phosphate group of cidofovir

[0041] To prepare compound 1 of Figure 2, 100 mg (0.32 mmol) of cidofovir, 303 mg (1.58 mmol) of 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDC), and 266 mg (1.58 mmol) L-valine methyl ester hydrochloride were dissolved in 1.5 mL of HPLC grade water. The pH was adjusted to 7.4 using TEA, and the condensation reaction was carried out for 3 h at 40 °C. 1.5 mL of ethyl acetate was added for extraction purposes before the hydrolysis of the methyl ester was carried out by adjusting the pH to 12 (by addition of NaOH). The hydrolysis reaction was carried out for 3 h at room temperature before purification of 1 was achieved by preparative HPLC using a C-18 column (5 μm, 100 Å, 21.4x250 mm by Varian). The mobile phase contained 0.1 M triethylamine with 3% acetonitrile, carbonated to a pH of 7.4. A flow rate of 7 mL/min was used at ambient temperature, and an UV detector set at 254 nm and 208 nm was used to visualize the HPLC traces. The desired compound showed a retention time of 25 min in this system, and 1 was

collected. The pH was adjusted to 9 using TEA and immediately frozen by immersion of the combined test tube fractions in a dry ice-acetone bath and was thereafter lyophilized to dryness. ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 0.80 (3H, d, $J = 6.8$), 0.87 (3H, d, $J = 7.2$), 1.80-1.92 (1H, m), 2.91-3.99 (8H, m), 5.75-5.77 (1H, d, $J = 7.6$), 7.64-7.66 (1H, d, $J = 7.6$). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 17.27 (1P, s). Exact Mass ($\text{C}_{13}\text{H}_{22}\text{N}_4\text{O}_7\text{P}$): 377.1227 m/z. Yield: 37% by ^{31}P NMR.

EXAMPLE 3

Synthesis of a compound having a valine- CO_2 -alkyl ester linked to the phosphate group of *cidofovir*

[0042] To prepare compound **2**, 100 mg (0.317 mmol) of *cidofovir*, 204 mg (1.07 mmol) EDC, and 288 mg (1.59 mmol) L-valine-ethylester hydrochloride were dissolved in 1.5 mL HPLC water, and the pH was adjusted to 7.5 using TEA. The reaction was carried out stirring for 4 h at 40 °C. The pH was adjusted to 9.5 using NaOH and 3x2 mL of ethyl acetate were added for extraction purposes. Preparative HPLC using a microsorb C-18 column (5 μ , 100 Å pore size, 21.4x250 mm by Varian) was used for purification where the mobile phase contained 0.1 M triethylamine and 13% acetonitrile carbonated to a pH of 7.1 and kept at a temperature of 10 °C. The flow rate was set at 9 mL/min and a retention time of approximately 19 min was obtained for compound **2**, which was monitored by UV detection at 254 nm. **2** was collected and immediately frozen by immersion of the combined test tube fractions in a dry ice-acetone bath and was thereafter lyophilized to dryness. ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 0.84 (3H, d, $J = 7.0$), 0.92 (3H, d, $J = 7.0$), 1.14 (3H, t, $J = 7.0$), 2.05 (1H, m), 3.26-4.11 (10H, m), 5.73 (1H, d, $J = 6.9$), 7.60 (1H, d, $J = 6.9$). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 16.86 (1P, s). Exact Mass ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_4\text{O}_7\text{P}$): 405.1555 m/z. Yield: 35% by ^{31}P NMR.

EXAMPLE 4

Synthesis of a compound having valine linked to the cytosine ring of *cidofovir*

[0043] **cHPMPC-(N-C)-L-Valine-NH₂ (3)**. To prepare compound **3** of Figure 5, 100 mg (0.32 mmol) *cidofovir*, 392 μL (2.25 mmol), diisopropylethylamine (DIEA), and 257 μL (6.35 mmol) methanol were mixed before 4 mL of dimethylformamide (DMF) was added to the reaction flask. 660 mg (1.26 mmol) PyBOP was added and the condensation reaction was carried out for 3 h at 35 °C. Solvents were removed under vacuum and residues redissolved in 3 mL of DMF. 83 mg (0.38 mmol) of t-BOC-L-valine hydrochloride, 392 μL (2.25 mmol) DIEA, and 330 mg (0.63 mmol) PyBOP were added to the solution, and the reaction was carried out for 24 h at room temperature. Solvents were removed under vacuum

followed by purification of the methyl protected **3** on a cyclograph (rotor: 4 mm) [eluent: (CH₂Cl₂), (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 1:3) and (CH₂Cl₂:acetone, 1:1)]. The methyl-protected compound **3** was dissolved in 4 mL of DMF and 0.5 mL of BTMS was added. The demethylation reaction took place stirring for 16 h at room temperature. Solvent was removed under vacuum. Residues were redissolved in water followed by adjustment of the pH to 7 by addition of sodium carbonate. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum, and acetone was added to precipitate the desired compound. 160 mg of white crystals were obtained from the precipitation, and **3** was further purified by preparative HPLC using a C-18 column (5 μm, 100 Å, 21.4x250 mm by Varian). The mobile phase was kept at ambient temperature and contained 0.1 M triethylammonium carbonate and 7% acetonitrile with a pH of 7.4. A fraction of the sample was purified by preparative HPLC methods and further analyzed by NMR and HR-MS techniques. ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 0.89 (6H, m), 2.01 (1H, m), 2.86-4.14 (7H, m), 4.35 (1H, d, *J*=8.2), 5.80 (1H, d, *J*=7.3), 7.35 (1H, d, *J*=7.3). ³¹P NMR (CD₃OD): δ 13.07. Exact Mass (C₁₃H₂₁N₄O₆P): 360.11987 m/z.

EXAMPLE 5

Synthesis of a compound having a valine-serine dipeptide linked to the phosphate group of cyclic cidofovir

[0044] To synthesize compound **5** of Figure 2, O-tert-butyl-N,N'-diisopropylisourea was made according to Rapoport et al., J. Org. Chem., 1993, 58, 2369-2376, incorporated by reference herein. In brief, 10 mL (1.0 equiv) of N,N'-diisopropylcarbodiimide was added to 7.1 mL (1.15 equiv) of t-butanol. 64 mg of CuCl was added and the reaction was stirred at ambient temperature for 24 h. 1.73 mL (7.25 mmol) O-tert-butyl-N,N'-diisopropylisourea was added to 1.0 g (4.87 mmol) of t-BOC-L-serine in 10.0 mL dry CH₂Cl₂. The reaction was refluxed for 24 h before an additional 1.73 mL (7.25 mmol) O-tert-butyl-N,N'-diisopropylisourea was added to the reaction mixture, which was refluxed for another 24 h. Solvents were removed under vacuum, and residues were redissolved in CH₂Cl₂, which was followed by a silica gel filtration for removal of N,N'-diisopropylurea. The filtrate solvent was removed and approximately 1.0 g of the t-butyl ester of t-BOC L-serine was achieved (yield 79%). Selective deprotection of the t-BOC moiety was achieved according to Han et al., J. Pept. Res. 2001, 58(4), 338-341, incorporated by reference herein, by exposing the t-butyl ester and t-BOC-protected L-serine to 4 M HCl in dioxane at 0 °C for 0.5 h. Solvent was removed under vacuum, and 751 mg of t-butyl ester-protected L-serine was obtained as a white crystalline compound. 751 mg (3.8 mmol)

L-serine t-butylester, 826 mg (3.8 mmol) t-BOC L-valine, and 425 μ L (3.05 mmol) TEA were dissolved in 15.0 mL dry CH_2Cl_2 to achieve the desired conjugation between the two amino acids, 695 mg (3.37 mmol) DCC and 434 mg (3.21 mmol) HOBT, was added, and the reaction was stirred at room temperature for 18 h. N,N' -dicyclohexylurea was filtered off and the crude product was concentrated under vacuum. The crude product was dissolved in 50 mL of DCM. An aqueous workup was performed using 25 mL sat. NaHCO_3 followed by 30 mL HPLC water before obtaining the desired dipeptide as a foamy film in 48% yield (650 mg). This product was used as obtained without further purification.

[0045] To prepare compound 5 of Figure 2, 135 mg (0.428 mmol) cidofovir was exposed to 135 mg (1.04 mmol) DIEA and dissolved in 4 mL DMF. A HPMPC-DIEA salt was obtained after solvent was removed under vacuum. 650 mg (1.8 mmol) dipeptide (t-BOC-Val-Ser-t-butyl described above) was added to a reaction flask containing the HPMPC-DIEA salt and 4 mL dry DMF. 660 mg (1.27 mmol) PyBOP and 425 μ L (2.44 mmol) DIEA were added, and the reaction took place stirring under N_2 (g) at 40 $^\circ\text{C}$ for 1 h. An additional 330 mg (0.635 mmol) PyBOP was added and left for 3 additional hours. Solvents were removed under vacuum, and a silica gel column chromatography purification was performed [eluent; CH_2Cl_2 : acetone:methanol, 20:10:1.]. Solvent was removed and deprotection of the t-BOC and t-butoxy groups was performed in 4 mL of CH_2Cl_2 in the presence of 2 mL of 99% TFA for 3 h at room temperature. Solvents were removed under vacuum and ether was added to precipitate the final compound, 5, which was filtered by methanol on a funnel containing a silica gel layer. Preparative HPLC purification on a C-18 column (5 μm , 100 \AA , 21.4x250 mm by Varian) was obtained using a mobile phase containing 0.1 M TEA and 3.5% acetonitrile at pH 6.7 adjusted with acetic acid. A fraction of the sample was purified by preparative HPLC methods and evaluated by NMR and HR-MS techniques. ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 0.94 (6H, m), 2.10 (1H, m), 2.94-5.73 (10H, m), 5.73 (1H, m), 7.40 (1H, m). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 14.3 and 15.6 (1P, 2s). Exact mass ($\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{26}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}$); 447.1519 m/z.

EXAMPLE 6

General dipeptide synthesis of L-amino acid-tBOC-L-Serine(OMe)

[0046] The method of synthesizing dipeptide-tBOC reagents was adopted with slight modifications from the literature (Maruyama, K. et al., J. Org. Chem., Vol. 57, No. 23, 1992, p6147, incorporated by reference herein). 500 mg (3.21 mmol) of L-methyl ester or ethyl ester of serine and the appropriate t-BOC protected amino acid (3.21 mmol) were reacted with 1.2 times excess of DCC in 20 mL of dry CH_2Cl_2 in the presence of 425 μ L of

TEA and HOBt (3.21 mmol). The reaction was stirred and carried out at room temperature for 16h. The produced urea was filtered away, and solvent removed. Residues were re-dissolved in 50 mL of CH₂Cl₂ and washed with 25 mL of 0.5M citric acid followed by 25 mL of H₂O, as well as 25 mL of a sat. solution of NaHCO₃. The organic phase was dried over Na₂SO₄. Solvent was removed under vacuo and the residue redissolved in 25mL CH₂Cl₂ and 25 mL of ethyl ether. The produced urea was filtered away after 16h and solvents removed under vacuo. The white to yellow crystalline dipeptides were obtained in yields varying between 44-88%.

EXAMPLE 7

General procedure for cidofovir condensation of L-amino acid-tBOC-L-Ser(OMe alt OEt)

[0047] 5 mL of DMF and 400 μ L of DIEA was added to 200 mg (0.63 mmol) HPMPC to produce a HPMPC-DIEA salt. Solvent was removed under vacuo and HPMPC-DIEA salt was carefully dried. 1.5 times excess of desired dipeptide from the general procedure described above was added to the dry HPMPC-DIEA salt, as well as 7 mL dry DMF and 400 μ L DIEA. The mixture was heated for 1 h at 40°C before 660 mg (1.3 mmol) PyBOP was added. Reaction was monitored by ³¹P NMR, and additional portions of PyBOP were added until the reaction was completed. Solvent was removed under vacuo, and purified by silica gel column chromatography [Solvent system: (CH₂Cl₂), (CH₂Cl₂: acetone, 2:1), (CH₂Cl₂: acetone: MeOH, 20:10:3)].

EXAMPLE 8

General t-BOC deprotection and purification of compounds 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of Figure 2.

[0048] t-BOC deprotection was achieved by exposing the compounds to TFA (2 mL of 99% TFA) in CH₂Cl₂ (4 mL) for 3 h at room temperature. The solvent was removed under vacuo and the product purified on a preparative TLC [(CH₂Cl₂: MeOH, 10:2), 1000 μ m silica GF60 plate]. The product was extracted with methanol and dried under vacuo. A tiny amount (~200 μ L) of MeOH was used to wet the film produced from drying and diethylether was added to precipitate the compounds. White crystals of compounds 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were obtained in yields ranging between 9-30%, which were not optimized.

[0049] **4: cHPMPC-Val-Ser(OMe).** ¹H NMR (CD₃OD): δ 0.92-1.04 (6H, m), 2.06-2.20 (1H, m), 3.66 and 3.69 (3H, 2s), 3.71-4.50 (9H, m), 5.78-5.86 (1H, m), 7.50-7.60 (1H, 2d, $J=7.7$). ³¹P NMR (CD₃OD): δ 14.1 and 15.3 (1P, 2s). MS: C₁₇H₂₉N₅O₈P⁺; 462.175 m/z (M+H⁺).

[0050] **6: cHPMPC-Ala-Ser(OMe).** ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 1.41-1.45 (3H, m), 3.66 and 3.69 (3H, 2s), 3.72-4.46 (9H, m), 5.83-5.87 (1H, m), 7.56-7.65 (1H, 2d, $J=7.2$). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 14.0 and 15.2 (1P, 2s). MS: $\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{25}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}^+$; 434.145 m/z ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$). Elem. Anal. ($\text{C}_{15}\text{H}_{24}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}$): C, H; N: calcd, 34.50, 3.96, 10.59; found, 34.21, 4.17, 10.38.

[0051] **7: cHPMPC-Leu-Ser(OMe).** ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 0.89-0.94 (6H, m), 1.55-1.72 (3H, m), 3.67 and 3.69 (3H, 2s), 3.7-4.51 (11H, m), 5.79-5.83 (1H, m), 7.48-7.56 (1H, m). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 14.14 and 15.24 (1P, 2s). MS: $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}^+$; 476.192 m/z ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$).

[0052] **8: cHPMPC-Val-Ser(OEt).** ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 1.00 (6H, m), 1.20 (3H, m), 2.14 (1H, m), 3.68-4.54 (13H, m), 5.85 (1H, m), 7.55 (2d, $J=7.4$). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 14.92 and 13.88 (1P, 2s). MS: $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{31}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}^+$; 476.189 m/z ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$).

[0053] **9: cHPMPC-Phe-Ser(OMe).** ^1H NMR (CD_3OD): δ 2.89-4.51 (13H, m), 3.66 and 3.68 (3H, 2s), 5.79-5.86 (1H, m), 7.15-7.30 (5H, m), 7.48-7.56 (1H, 2d, $J=7.1$). ^{31}P NMR (CD_3OD): δ 14.04 and 15.28 (1P, 2s). MS: $\text{C}_{21}\text{H}_{29}\text{N}_5\text{O}_8\text{P}^+$; 510.178 m/z ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$).

[0054] The cyclic cidofovir-based compounds are synthesized as diastereoisomers, which can be separated into individual isomers by HPLC.

EXAMPLE 9

Single pass perfusion and portal vein blood collection analysis of compounds

[0055] Male albino Sprague–Dawley rats, 9–10 weeks old and weighing 250–400 g were used in the study. Prior to each experiment, the rats were fasted for 18 h with free access to water. The rats were anesthetized with an i.m. injection of ketamine/xylazine/butorphanol (87, 6, and 0.2 mg/kg body weight, respectively). The abdomen was opened by a midline incision of 4–5 cm. A suitable intestinal segment of approximately 10–20 cm was cannulated on two ends and connected to a syringe pump that guided the solution through a water bath of 37° C. This isolated segment was then rinsed with buffer at the respective pH at a flow-rate of 0.5 ml/min in order to clean out any residual debris. A 10 mM HEPES (pH 7.5) buffer containing 135 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl and 0.01% PEG 4000 was used for the perfusion buffer. The intestinal segments were perfused at a flow rate of approximately 0.2 ml/min with these buffers containing test drug and ^{14}C -PEG 4000 as a non-absorbable marker for measuring water flux. After steady-state was reached in the segment, typically 30 min after the start of perfusion, perfusate samples were taken in 10 min

intervals for an hour. Sample analysis for ^{14}C (PEG-4000) was performed by scintillation counting. For these studies, we also took blood from the portal vein (prehepatic) as described below. After a segment of intestine was cannulated, the portal vein was then immediately cannulated using a 24-gauge Angeocath catheter (Becton Dickinson, Sandy, UT). The cannula was secured in place using cyanoacrylate glue or surgical tape and connected to an approximately 35 cm long Silastic tubing, which allowed blood to flow into vials placed about 25 cm below the mesenteric vein. The single-pass intestinal perfusion was initiated at this time. Blood flowing out of the mesenteric vein from the isolated intestinal segment was collected directly into vials, centrifuged immediately and plasma was separated and stored at -80°C .

[0056] Rat plasma samples were acidified and processed with solid phase extraction. Briefly, a cation exchange solid-phase cartridge (MCX, 30 mg/i. cc, Waters) was activated with 1.0 ml of methanol and equilibrated with 1.0 ml of water. A 500 μl aliquot of rat plasma was acidified and loaded onto the cartridge. After washing with 1.0 ml of 0.1 N HCl and 1.0 ml methanol, the compounds were eluted with 1 ml of 5% NH_4OH in methanol. The solvent was evaporated under vacuum and the residue was reconstituted in 200 μl of water. Samples were analyzed using a LC-MS/MS system (Micromass Quattro II, HP 1100). Ten μl of sample was separated with a C8 column (2.1 X 150 mm) using a mobile phase of 5–10% acetonitrile:water containing 0.5% formic acid.

[0057] From the plasma concentration of compound, the mesenteric permeability was determined by substitution into Eq. (1),

$$\text{Flux} = (A) (P_{e\text{-mes}}) (C_i) \quad \text{Eq. (1)}$$

where Flux is equal to the portal blood flow (estimated at 1 ml/min in the rat) X the steady state mesenteric blood concentration of cidofovir-based compound, A is the absorptive area of the intestine (estimated at 12.56 cm^2 in the rat intestine), $P_{e\text{-mes}}$ is the mesenteric permeability (cm/s), and C_i is the starting concentration of the drug in the perfusate (lg/ml).

[0058] The transport evaluations of compounds 4, 6 and 7 of Figure 2 versus cidofovir and cyclic cidofovir in the single pass intestinal perfusion with portal vein collection assay showed about a 10-20 fold increase in permeability for compounds 4, 6 and 7 relative to cidofovir and cyclic cidofovir. Compound 4 was also co-perfused with glycine-sarcosine (Gly-Sar), a known competitive substrate of hPepT1 in the in situ perfusion model. Co-perfusion with Gly-Sar almost completely suppressed the transport of compound 4,

indicating that hPepT1 is involved in the transportation of the cidofovir-based compounds of the present invention. The results are shown in Table I.

Table I

COMPOUND	P_{e-mes} (cm/s X 10 ⁵)
Cidofovir	0.052
Cyclic cidofovir	0.003
Compound 4	1.18
Compound 4 + Gly-Sar	0.006
Compound 6	0.98
Compound 7	0.48

EXAMPLE 10

Competitive binding studies

[0059] K_i values for the cidofovir compounds were determined in the hPepT1 over-expressing cell line (DC5) using ³H glycine-sarcosine (Gly-Sar). DC5 cells were plated (12,000 cells/well) in 96-well tissue culture plates (Falcon) and allowed to grow for 4 days. The cells were washed once with 200 μ l of uptake buffer and aspirated. The plates were cooled to 4 °C and 25 μ l of uptake buffer containing 50 μ M Gly-Sar (0.5 μ Ci/ml) was added. The uptake buffer also contained the test cidofovir-based compounds over a range of concentrations. Uptake was initiated by placing the plate in a shaker water bath (37 °C) and terminated at 10 min by rapid washing with multiple changes of 4 °C PBS (Sigma). The radioactive peptide was extracted from the cell layer with 200 μ l of methanol:water (1:1) and counted in 4 ml of CytoScint ESTM scintillation cocktail (ICN). Non-linear regression analysis of the data was used to determine the IC_{50} using the solver function in Microsoft Excel.

[0060] The competitive binding assay in DC5 cells over-expressing hPepT1 showed that compounds 4, 6 and 7 have significant affinity for PepT1. The results are shown in Table 2.

Table 2

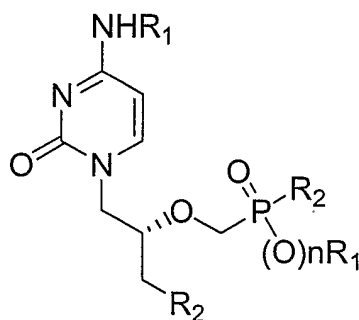
COMPOUND	Gly-Sar inhibition (mM), Ki
Cidofovir	10.8 ± 0.3
Cyclic cidofovir	10.7 ± 0.2
Compound 4	2.7 ± 0.1
Compound 6	3.4 ± 0.2
Compound 7	5.4 ± 0.2

[0061] The results of the perfusion and binding studies indicate that incorporating amino acid moieties into cidofovir and cyclic cidofovir enhances oral bioavailability and binding to the PepT1 transporter.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

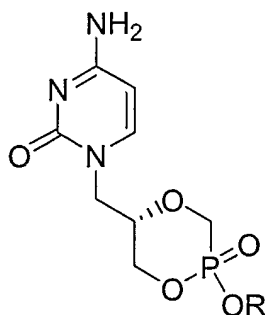
1. A compound comprising a chemical moiety attached to a cidofovir or cyclic cidofovir framework, said chemical moiety promoting uptake of the compound by a gastrointestinal tract membrane transporter.
2. The compound of claim 1, wherein the membrane transporter is selected from the group consisting of peptide transporters, organic cation transporters, organic anion transporters, glucose transporters, vitamin transporters, bile acid transporters, fatty acid transporters, phosphate transporters, monocarboxylic acid transporters, bicarbonate transporters, ABC transporters, nucleoside transporters and amino acid transporters.
3. A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein
 each R_1 is H, or an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide or derivative thereof;
 $n = 0$ or 1 ; and
 both R_2 s are either OH or taken together constitute a linkage forming a ring structure having two oxygen atoms in a six-membered ring;
 and wherein one R_1 is H and the other R_1 is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof.

4. The compound of claim 3, wherein R_1 is bonded to N, O or P by an α -amino or side chain nitrogen, α -carboxyl carbon or side chain of R_1 when R_1 is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide or derivative thereof.

5. The compound of claim 3, wherein R₁ is prepared from L- amino acid residues when R₁ is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide or derivative thereof.
6. A stereoisomer of the compound of claim 3.
7. A cidofovir-based compound of the formula

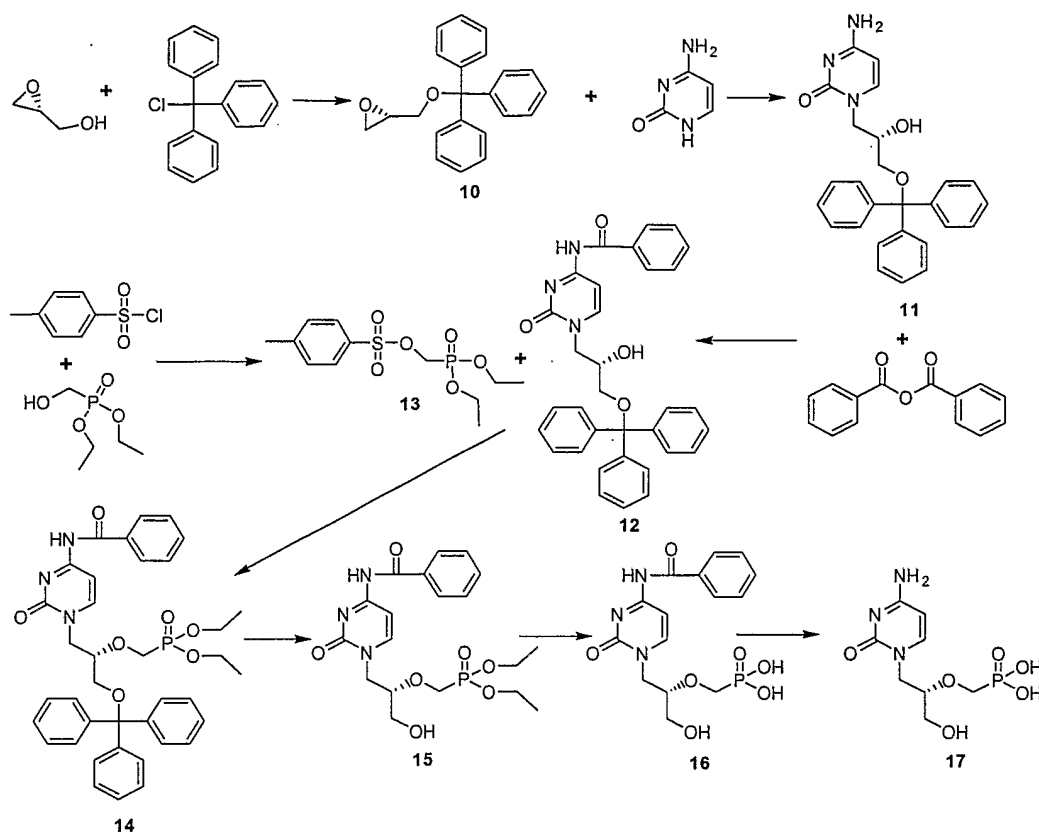


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof.

8. The compound of claim 7, wherein R is connected to the cyclic cidofovir framework by the side chain of an L-serine, L-threonine, L-homoserine or L-tyrosine residue, or a derivative thereof.
9. The compound of claim 8, wherein R is connected to the cyclic cidofovir framework by the side chain of an L- serine residue or a derivative thereof.
10. The compound of claim 9, wherein the serine derivative is a Ser-CO₂-R ester, and wherein the R group is a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group.
11. The compound of claim 9, wherein R is a dipeptide having the sequence X-Ser, and wherein X is an L-amino acid residue or a derivative thereof.
12. The compound of claim 11, wherein the serine derivative is a Ser-CO₂-R ester, and wherein the R group is a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group.
13. The compound of claim 11 wherein X has a hydrophobic side chain.
14. The compound of claim 13 wherein X is an L-valine, L-leucine, L-alanine, L-phenylalanine, L-glycine or L-isoleucine residue, or a derivative thereof.

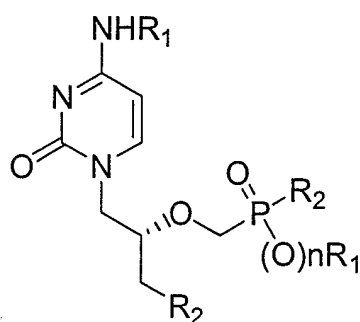
15. The compound of claim 9, wherein R is a tripeptide having the sequence X₁-X₂-Ser or X₁-Ser-X₂, wherein X₁ and X₂ are each independently an L-amino acid residue or a derivative thereof.
16. The compound of claim 15, wherein the serine derivative is a Ser-CO₂-R ester, and wherein the R group is a C₁-C₂₀ alkyl or alkenyl group.
17. The compound of claim 15 wherein X₁ and X₂ each independently have a hydrophobic side chain.
18. The compound of claim 17, wherein X₁ and X₂ are each independently an L-valine, L-leucine, L-alanine, L-phenylalanine, L-glycine or L-isoleucine residue, or a derivative thereof.
19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of any one of the compounds of claims 1-18.
20. A method of preparing a benzoyl cytosine, comprising the steps of reacting tritylated R-glycidol with unprotected cytosine to obtain (S)-N¹-[(2-hydroxy-3-triphenylmethoxy)propyl]cytosine, and reacting benzoic anhydride with said (S)-N¹-[(2-hydroxy-3-triphenylmethoxy)propyl]cytosine to obtain (S)-N¹-[(3-triphenylmethoxy-2-hydroxy)propyl]-N⁴-benzoylcytosine.
21. A method of preparing cidofovir, comprising the following reaction:



22. A method of enhancing transporter uptake of a cidofovir-based compound, comprising attaching to a cidofovir framework a chemical moiety that promotes uptake by a gastrointestinal membrane transporter.
23. A method of enhancing transporter uptake of a cidofovir-based compound, comprising attaching an amino acid, dipeptide or tripeptide residue, or a derivative thereof, to a cidofovir framework.
24. A method of attaching an amino acid, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof, to a pentavalent phosphate group of a compound, comprising reacting a C-alkyl protected amino acid and the compound in the presence of 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochlorine (EDC), N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) or (benzotriazol-1-yloxy)tripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate (PyBOP).
25. A method of attaching an amino acid, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof, to the pentavalent phosphate group of cidofovir, comprising reacting a C-alkyl protected amino acid and cidofovir in the presence of 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide

hydrochlorine (EDC), N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (DCC) or (benzotriazol-1-yloxy)tripyrrolidinophosphonium hexafluorophosphate (PyBOP).

26. A method of attaching an amino acid, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof, to the pentavalent phosphate group of phosphonoformic acid (PFA), comprising reacting a C-ethyl protected L-amino acid and a dianionic PFA C-monoester in the presence of 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochlorine (EDC).
27. A method of treating a virus infection, comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a prodrug of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

each R_1 is H, or an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide or derivative thereof;

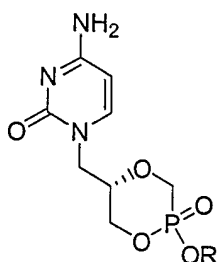
$n = 0$ or 1 ; and

both R_2 s are either OH or taken together constitute a linkage forming a ring structure having two oxygen atoms in a six-member ring;

and wherein one R_1 is H and the other R_1 is an amino acid residue, dipeptide, tripeptide, or derivative thereof.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the compound is orally administered.
29. The method of claim 27, wherein the virus infection is selected from the group consisting of a polyomaviridae, papillomaviridae, adenoviridae, iridoviridae, hepadnaviridae, poxviridae and herpesviridae infection.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the viral infection is a smallpox or cytomegalovirus infection.
31. The method of claim 29, wherein the viral infection is an adenovirus infection.

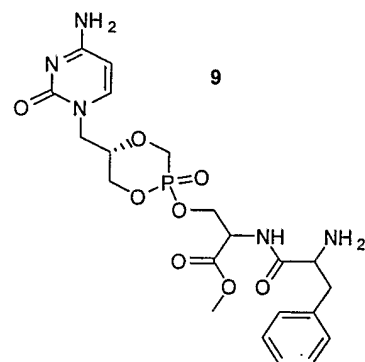
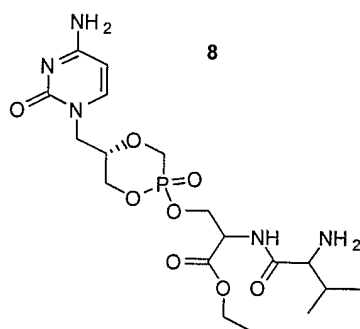
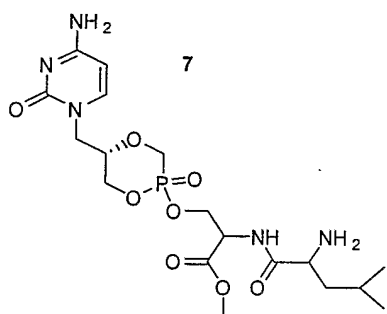
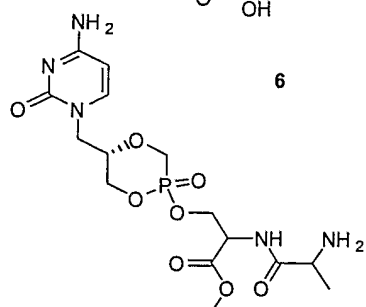
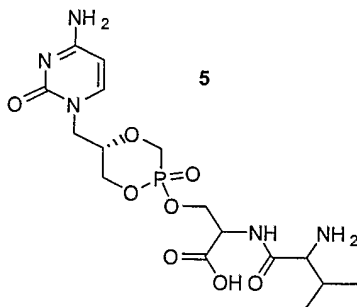
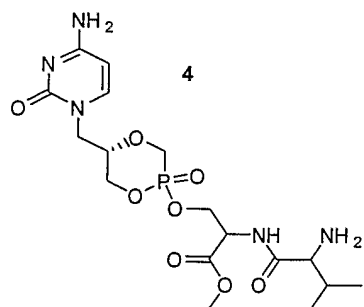
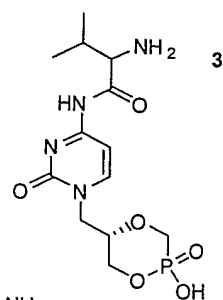
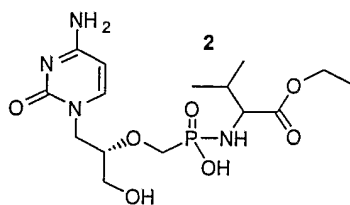
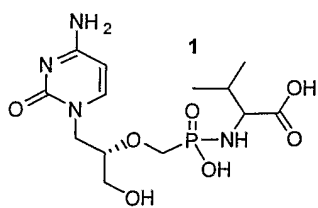
32. A method of treating a viral infection, comprising administering to an individual a therapeutically effective amount of a prodrug of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

R is an amino acid, dipeptide or tripeptide residue, or a derivative thereof.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the compound is orally administered.
34. The method of claim 32, wherein the virus infection is selected from the group consisting of a polyomaviridae, papillomaviridae, adenoviridae, iridoviridae, hepadnaviridae, poxviridae and herpesviridae infection.
35. The method of claim 34, wherein the viral infection is a smallpox or cytomegalovirus infection.
36. The method of claim 34, wherein the viral infection is an adenovirus infection.
37. A cidofovir-based compound selected from the group consisting of compounds 1-9 as follows:



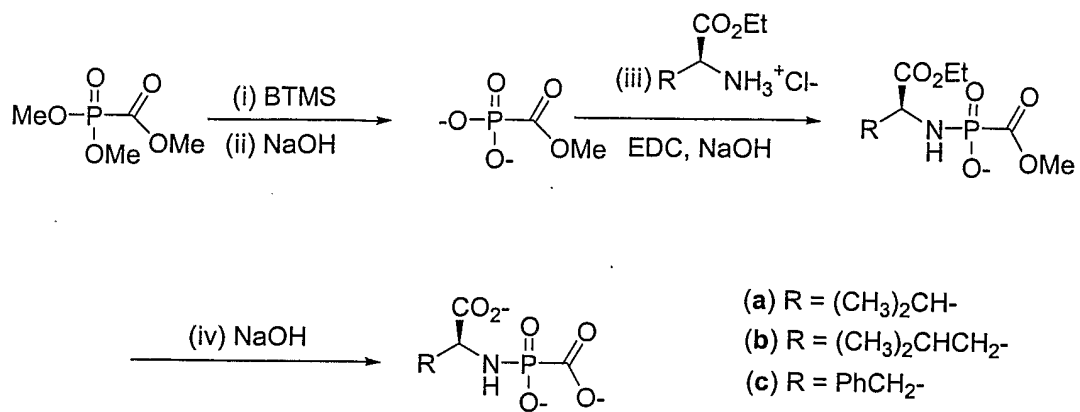


Figure 1

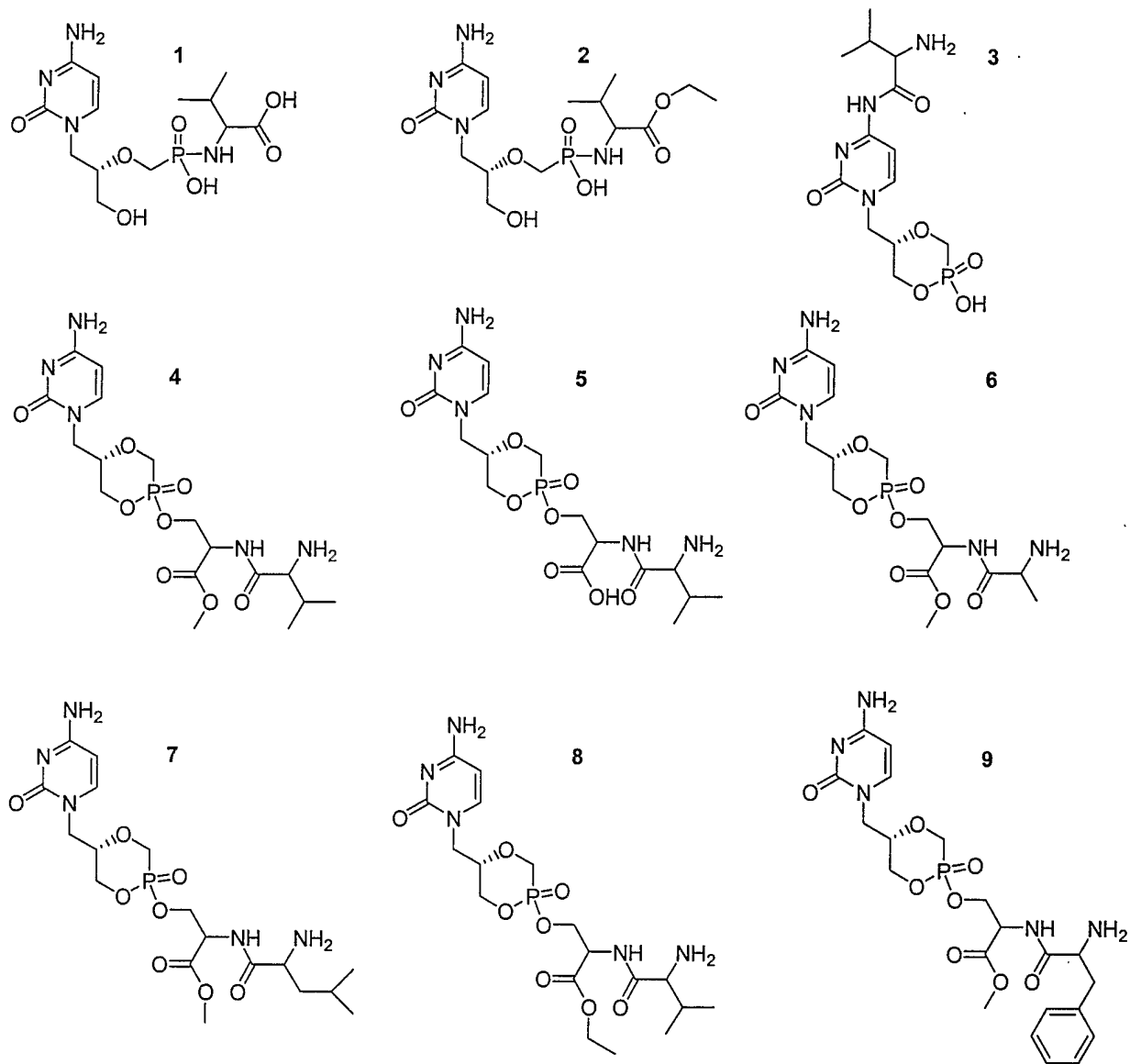


Figure 2

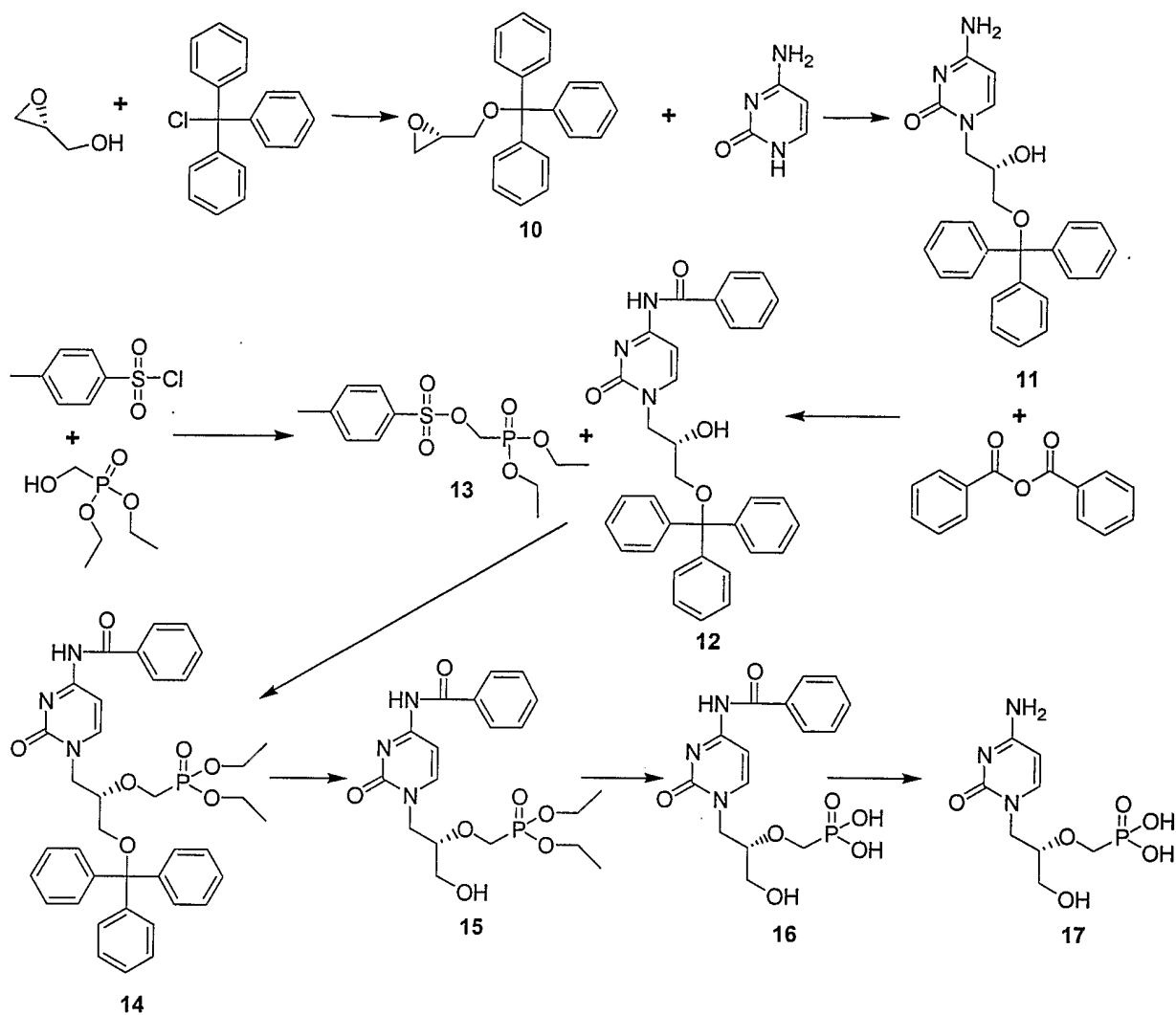


Figure 3