ABSTRACT

4-Hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide of the structure

is obtained in a metabolic process and has been determined to possess biological activity similar to, but more intense than, its parent drug, glutethimide, in mammals.

3 Claims, No Drawings
COMPOSITION AND METHODS FOR EFFECTING SEDATION

The invention described herein was made in the course of work under a grant or award from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

DESCRIPTION

This invention pertains to the compound 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide, its preparation and use. More particularly, the compound 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide is represented by the following structural formula:

![Structural formula of 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide]

The compound, 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide is related to alpha-phenyl-alpha-ethyl-glutarimide, conventionally named glutethimide, which is a sedative-hypnotic drug. Glutethimide is similar in structure to the barbiturates. Glutethimide intoxication has become relatively common as a result of its popularity with prescribing physicians and drug-users. Although similar to the intoxicated state produced by barbiturates, glutethimide-induced coma is characterized by an unusually long duration, unexplained variations in depth and a "rebound" recurrence as the person appears to the recovering.

The pattern of metabolism of glutethimide is the same in dogs and rats, as disclosed by Keberle et al., in Helv. Chim. Acta, 42, pages 417-425 and in human subjects, as disclosed by Butikofer, et al., in Arch. Exp. Path. U. Pharmac., 244, pages 97 to 108 (1962). In order to determine whether this similarity in metabolism among species exists after intoxicating doses, studies directed to determining the plasma levels of the drug and its metabolites in humans hospitalized on account of overdoses of glutethimide and in dogs and rats given toxic doses of glutethimide have been reported by J. J. Ambre and L. J. Fischer, in Res. Commun. Chem. Path. Pharmacol., 4, pages 307 to 325 (1972), which is incorporated herein by reference. In the Ambre and Fischer paper, comparisons were made of human patients hospitalized due to glutethimide intoxication and of dogs who had been experimentally caused to ingest glutethimide. Particularly, studies of the plasma of the intoxicated patients and studies of the plasma of dogs induced to ingest glutethimide were undertaken. It was discovered by virtue of the comparison of the glutethimide metabolite components in the plasma, that dogs, rats and humans metabolize glutethimide in a different manner. Analysis of the plasma of dogs, rats and humans revealed that an hydroxy metabolite accumulated to high concentrations in humans but not in the dog and rat.

The end product metabolites of the metabolism of glutethimide was determined and reported as early as
from the urine of dogs given large doses of glutethimide.

Large doses of glutethimide are fed to mammals and
the urine collected over a period of several days.
Thereafter an acid hydrolysis reaction is carried out by
contacting the collected urine with a mineral acid such
as hydrochloric acid at elevated temperatures. After a
period of, say, about one hour the mixture is cooled to
room temperature and extracted with a suitable sol-
vent. Two extractions with ethyl ether are satisfactory
for this purpose. The solvent is evaporated and the dark
brown oil obtained by this procedure is then subjected
to separation as by chromatographic methods. Veri-
fication of the structure of the final product is by IR and
NMR spectroscopy.

The compound was tested to verify sedative activity
by procedures described hereinafter.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

The biosynthetic preparation of 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-
phenyl glutarimide was undertaken as follows: mongrel
dogs were caused to ingest 400 mg/kg if glutethimide
conventionally sold as Doriden by Ciba. The urine of
the two 20 kg mongrel dogs was collected. The urine
was collected for five days in vessels chilled in ice. The
animals in the experiment eventually recovered after
being in a coma for approximately 24 hours after the
large dose of glutethimide.

The dog urine was pooled. The urine was acidified
and heated at elevated temperatures. To a 100 ml
portion of pooled dog urine containing glutethimide
metabolites was added 100 ml of 6 N HCl and the
solution was heated at 100°C for one hour. Other min-
eral acids which would not interfere with the isolation
of the end product may be used in this acid hydrolysis
step. Thereafter, the mixture was cooled to room tem-
perature and extracted twice with a substantially water-
insoluble solvent. Preferably ethyl ether is employed in
this step, although other water-insoluble solvents, such
as other ethers, pentane, hexane, benzene and the like
may be substituted for ethyl ether. The ether extracts of
the heat and acid treated urine were combined.

Isolation of the desired product may be undertaken
by any of the conventional prior art techniques, such as
gas liquid chromatography, crystallization and recryst-
allization and the like.

By way of example the desired product was isolated
by silica gel column chromatography. Thus, the ether
extracts of the acidified and heated glutethimide meta-
bolites were combined and the solvent evaporated to
yield a dark brown oil. Columns were prepared by
making a slurry of silica gel (chromatographic grade,
Type I, 60-200 mesh, Sigma Chemical Company, St.
Louis, Missouri) with an eluting solvent mixture which
was conveniently a 9:1 chloroform-acetone mixture. A
glass column of 2 centimeters diameter was filled to a
height of 45 centimeters. The residue, a residual brown
oil which resulted from solvent evaporation of the acid-
ified glutethimide metabolites, was dissolved in 1 to 2
milliliters of the eluting solvent mixture, applied to
the top of the silica gel column. Eluting solvent mixture
of constant composition was passed through the col-
umn at a flow rate of 3 to 4 mls per minute. Five to 10
ml fractions were collected and monitored by gas
chromatography for the presence of the metabolite.
The eluate fractions containing the metabolite (No.
20-70) were combined, and the solvent mixture, evapo-
rated. The resulting residue, a light brown oil, was dissolved in an alcoholic solvent, preferably methanol, for application to thin-layer plates.

The methanol solution of the silica gel column eluate containing the metabolite was applied to 20 × 20 cm silica gel G plates of 250 μm thickness. Application of the material in a thin streak was facilitated by the use of the Camag chromatocharger (Camag, Inc., New Berlin, Wisconsin). The plates were then developed in a solvent system which consisted of hexane, ethyl ether and acetic acid (70:30:8). The location of the metabolite on the developed plate was determined by spraying one edge with a one percent mercuric nitrate reagent solution to yield a gray color. The band of silica containing the metabolite was scraped from the plate and the metabolite was eluted from the silica by shaking with ethyl ether. After centrifuging to remove silica gel, the ether eluates were combined.

The procedure described above was repeated on 100 ml aliquots of urine until all of the dog urine had been processed. The combined eluates from thin layer scrapings were evaporated and the residue placed in a vacuum desiccator overnight. Yellow crystals formed in the residue. The crystals and some residual oil were dissolved in a minimum amount of ethyl ether (or acetone) and a white product (approximately 100 mgs) crystallized at −5°C over a period of 14 days.

The chemical structure of the isolated materials was determined by IR and NMR spectroscopy. The IR spectrum shows an OH stretching band at 3530 cm⁻¹. The NMR shows a methine proton appearing at δ = 4.2 (PPM) which because of its downfield position in the spectra, shows that the hydroxyl group is next to the carbonyl group of the imide ring. The melting point of the product is 120°-121°C.

The biological activity of the metabolite was assessed in mice using the rotating rod technique set forth in an article by Sofia, R.D., J. Pharm. Sci., Vol. 58, pages 900 through 901, (1969) which is incorporated herein by reference. Intraperitoneal injections were given to mice and the median effective dose (ED₅₀) was calculated according to the method of Litchfield and Wilcoxon, J. Pharmacol. Exp. Ther., 96, pages 99 to 112 (1949) which article is incorporated herein by reference. The ED₅₀ for hydroxyglutethimide was 24 mg/kg with 95% confidence limits being 17 to 35 mg/kg. This compared to an ED₅₀ of 47 mg/kg for glutethimide using the same tests. A dose of 50 mg/kg given IP was used to anesthe-

ize rats for a period of approximately one hour. It is possible that this material, 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide, may be used as a shorter-acting, less toxic sedative-hypnotic drug than current drugs now in use.

The description and preparation of the 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide, set forth above, is presented by way of illustration and example. It is apparent that there has been provided, in accordance with the invention, the compound 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide and a preparation therefor that fully satisfies the object, aims and advantages set forth above. While the invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications, and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art in the light of the foregoing description. Accordingly, it is intended to embrace all such alternatives, modifications, and variations as fall within the spirit and broad scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A composition comprising an anesthetic dose of 4-hydroxy-2-ethyl-2-phenyl glutarimide and a pharmacologically inactive carrier therefor.


3. A method as defined in claim 2 wherein the mammal is treated by intraperitoneal injection.