COX2 Probes for Multimodal Imaging

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Technology description

Summary
Inventors at Vanderbilt University have developed a novel chemical design and synthesis process for azulene-based COX2 contrast agents which can be used for molecular imaging, via a variety of imaging techniques. These COX2 probes can be utilized for numerous applications, including imaging cancers and inflammation caused by arthritis and cardiovascular diseases. The process for developing these COX2 contrast agents has been significantly improved through a convergent synthesis process which reduces the required steps to establish the COX2 precursors.
Addressed Need
Difficulty labeling precursors with fluoride
Current synthesis requires too many steps
COX2 probes do not currently exist for PET/SPECT imaging devices
Technology Description
This novel synthesis process creates COX2 contrast agents for molecular imaging, either positron emission tomography (PET) or singe photon emission computed tomography (SPECT) or optical or magnetic resonance imaging. COX2 is a useful marker in detection of early stages of cancer as they are not expressed in normal tissues, but are "turned on" in early stages of inflammatory lesions and premalignant and malignant tumors. Convergent synthesis is used to obtain the COX2 precursors in the minimum possible number of steps of synthesis. In addition to the COX2 PET probes and synthesis process, this invention describes a process for labeling the COX2 probes with [18F] Fluoride.

Application area

These probes can be used for imaging cancers and inflammations such as arthritis or cardiovascular diseases.

Advantages

Optimized for use with positron emission tomography (PET), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and single photon emission computed tomography (SPECT)
Convergent synthesis strategy minimizes steps required for COX2 precursor synthesis
Novel [18F] Fluoride labeling strategy for precursor label

Wide array of potential imaging applications

Institution

Vanderbilt University

Inventors

Donald Nolting
Research Scientist
Radiology & Radiological Sciences
John Gore
Professor
Radiology & Radiological Sciences
Wellington Pham
Assistant Professor
Radiology & Radiological Sciences

联系我们

叶先生

电 话：021-65679356

手 机：13414935137

邮 箱：yeyingsheng@zf-ym.com