Pethidine

Ethyl 1-methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylate

Meperidine

Pethidine HCl
  • Roche (manufacturer)
    o Tablets, injection
Pethidine synthesis

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\text{diethanolamine} \xrightarrow{\text{EtOH, HCl(g)}} \text{pethidine HCl, m.p. 186-189}^\circ\text{C}
\]
A number of pethidine-type analogues have been synthesized and are used as antidiarrhoeal agents – loperamide and diphenoxylate.

**Pethidine metabolism**

Pethidine has a relatively short duration of action due to efficient inactivation by ester hydrolysis to the corresponding acid.

A fraction of the dose is also metabolised by oxidative N-dealkylation, affording norpethidine which has been implicated in CNS toxicity. Both metabolites form a common nor acid which is conjugated and eliminated.