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(54) **Title:** TISSUE DEGENERATION PROTECTION

(57) **Abstract:** The present invention provides isolated or essentially pure diterpenoic tetrahydropyran, such as steviol-19-glucuronide, steviol, stevioside and rebaudioside processes for obtaining the same and methods for obtaining stable pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the same for use of such compounds or compositions in a treatment of cardiovascular disorders or vascular disease or for the manufacture of medicaments to treat a condition of a cardiovascular disorder or vascular disease.