

other 6-membered heterocycles (with 3 or more heteroatoms)

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**Antitumor Imidazotetrazines. Part 35. New Synthetic Routes to the Antitumor Drug Temozolomide.**

— Some new synthetic strategies to the title drug (IV) are developed, avoiding the use of methyl isocyanate (MIC) and employing optimized conditions for the cyclization of appropriately substituted imidazoles (III) and (V). Compounds (III) and (VI) are prepared from imidazole (I) and chloride (II) or from imidazole (V) and NaNO<sub>2</sub>, resp., with lower yields (71%, 23%) than those obtained by methods using MIC (92%, 52%). Selective hydrolysis of the nitrile function of imidazotetrazine (VI) gives the salt (VII), which disassociates in H<sub>2</sub>O or DMSO to pure target compound (IV). — (STEVENS, M F. G.; ET AL.; J. Org. Chem. 62 (1997) 21, 7288-7294; Dep. Pharm. Sci., Univ. Nottingham, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK; EN)

