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(54) **METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-CARNITINE FROM CROTONOBETAINE**

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a method for producing L(-)-carnitine. The aim of the invention is to depict a method which permits the synthesis of L(-)-carnitine from crotonobetaine. crotonobetaine salts or derivatives in an ecologically advantageous manner by immobilizing cells of *Escherichia coli* 044 K74 in a continuously operating cell recycle reactor. Growing or resting cells of *E. coli* are retained in a continuously operating cell recycle reactor by micro or ultrafiltration membranes which are arranged as a flat membrane module or hollow chamfer module.