CLAIMS

1. Use of L-carnitine and/or an alkanoyl L-carnitine, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in combination with a statin, for preparing a medicament for the treatment of type 2 diabetes ~~and its complications~~.

2. Use according to claim 1 in which the alkanoyl L-carnitine is selected from the group consisting of acetyl, propionyl, valeryl, isovaleryl, butyryl and isobutyryl L-carnitine.

3. Use according to claim 1 in which the pharmaceutically acceptable salt of L-carnitine or the alkanoyl L-carnitine is selected from the group consisting of chloride, bromide, orotate, aspartate, acid aspartate, acid citrate, magnesium citrate, phosphate, acid phosphate, fumarate and acid fumarate, magnesium fumarate, lactate, maleate and acid maleate, oxalate, acid oxalate, pamoate, acid pamoate, sulphate, acid sulphate, glucose phosphate, tartrate and acid tartrate, glycerophosphate, mucate, magnesium tartrate, 2-amino-ethanesulphonate, magnesium 2-amino-ethanesulphonate, methanesulphonate, choline tartrate, trichloroacetate, and trifluoroacetate.

4. Use according to claim 1 in which the statin is selected from the group consisting of simvastatin, lovastatin, fluvastatin, pravastatin, atorvastatin, cerivastatin, rovastatin and rosuvastatin.

5. Use according to claim 1 in which the statin is simvastatin.

~~6. Use according to claim 1 in which the complications of type 2 diabetes are due to insulin resistance and protein glycosylation.~~

~~7. Use according to claim 6, in which said complication is selected from the group comprising microvascular diseases such as diabetic retinopathy, diabetic neuropathy and nephropathy; microvascular diseases such as atherosclerosis, peripheral vasculopathies, myocardial infarct and stroke; polycystic ovary syndrome; syndrome X; obesity, hypertension and dyslipidaemia.~~

~~8.~~6. Use according to claim 1 in which the medicament to be administered comprises a statin in an amount of from 5 mg to 80 mg/day, preferably 15 to 40 mg/day; most preferably 20 mg/day; and the carnitine and/or the derivative thereof in an amount of from 0.5 to 5 g/day, preferably 1.5 to 3 g/day; most preferably 2 g/day.

~~9.~~7. Use according to claim ~~8~~6 in which the medicament is in solid or liquid form, suitable for oral or parenteral administration in the form of tablet, sachet, capsule or vial.

~~10.~~8. Use according to claim ~~8~~6 in which the medicament is in a single pharmaceutical form or in separate containers for sequential administration.