What is claimed is:

1. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension in a subject.

2. The use of Claim 1, wherein the subject is suffering from liver disease.

3. The use of Claim 2, wherein the liver disease is a chronic liver disease.

4. The use of Claim 3, wherein the chronic liver disease is cirrhosis.

5. The use of Claim 2, where the liver disease is an acute liver failure.

6. The use of Claim 1, wherein the treatment of portal hypertension comprises reducing the level of proinflammatory cytokines in the subject.

7. The use of Claim 1, wherein the treatment of portal hypertension comprises increasing endothelial nitric oxide synthase activity in the subject.

8. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

9. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

10. The use of Claim 1, wherein said L-ornithine is present as a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

11. The use of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate is sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

12. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

13. The use of Claim 12, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

14. The use of Claim 12, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

15. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

16. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the delay or reduction of the likelihood of onset of portal hypertension in a subject.

17. The use of Claim 16, wherein the subject is suffering from liver disease.

18. The use of Claim 17, wherein the liver disease is a chronic liver disease.

19. The use of Claim 18, wherein the chronic liver disease is cirrhosis.

20. The use of Claim 17, where the liver disease is an acute liver failure.

21. The use of Claim 16, wherein the delay or reduction in the likelihood of onset of portal hypertension comprises reducing the level of proinflammatory cytokines in the subject.

22. The use of Claim 16, wherein the delay or reduction in the likelihood of onset of portal hypertension comprises increasing endothelial nitric oxide synthase activity in the subject.

23. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

24. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

25. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

26. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

27. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

28. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicamentis for intravenous administration.

29. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

30. The use of Claim 16, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

31. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the restoration of liver function in a subject having poor liver function, wherein the restoration of liver function comprises increasing liver perfusion.

32. The use of Claim 31, wherein the subject is suffering from portal hypertension.

33. The use of Claim 32, wherein the restoration of liver function reduces the portal hypertension.

34. The use of Claim 31, wherein said restoration of liver function comprises reducing the level of proinflammatory cytokines in the subject.

35. The use of Claim 31, wherein said restoration of liver function comprises endothelial nitric oxide synthase activity in the subject.

36. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

37. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

38. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

39. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

40. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicamentis for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

41. The use of Claim 40, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

42. The use of Claim 40, wherein the medicamentis for oral administration.

43. The use of Claim 31, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

44. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension related variceal bleeding in a subject suffering from portal hypertension.

45. The use of Claim 44, wherein said treatment of variceal bleeding comprises reducing the level of proinflammatory cytokines in the subject.

46. The use of Claim 44, wherein said treatment of variceal bleeding comprises increasing endothelial nitric oxide synthase activity in the subject.

47. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

48. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

49. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

50. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

51. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

52. The use of Claim 51, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

53. The use of Claim 51, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

54. The use of Claim 44, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate .

55. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension related ascites in a subject suffering from portal hypertension.

56. The use of Claim 55, wherein said treatment of ascites comprises reducing the level of proinflammatory cytokines in the subject.

57. The use of Claim 55, wherein said treatment of ascites comprises increasing endothelial nitric oxide synthase activity in the subject.

58. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

59. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

60. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

61. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

62. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

63. The use of Claim 62, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

64. The use of Claim 62, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

65. The use of Claim 55, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

What is claimed is:

1. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension in a subject.

2. The use of Claim 1, wherein the subject is suffering from liver disease.

3. The use of Claim 2, wherein the liver disease is a chronic liver disease.

4. The use of Claim 3, wherein the chronic liver disease is cirrhosis.

5. The use of Claim 2, where the liver disease is an acute liver failure.

6. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

7. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

8. The use of Claim 1, wherein said L-ornithine is present as a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The use of Claim 1, wherein the at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate is sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

10. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

11. The use of Claim 10, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

12. The use of Claim 10, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

13. The use of Claim 1, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

14. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the delay or reduction of the likelihood of onset of portal hypertension in a subject.

15. The use of Claim 14, wherein the subject is suffering from liver disease.

16. The use of Claim 15, wherein the liver disease is a chronic liver disease.

17. The use of Claim 16, wherein the chronic liver disease is cirrhosis.

18. The use of Claim 15, where the liver disease is an acute liver failure.

19. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

20. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

21. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

22. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

23. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

24. The use of Claim 23, wherein the medicamentis for intravenous administration.

25. The use of Claim 23, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

26. The use of Claim 14, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.

27. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension related variceal bleeding in a subject suffering from portal hypertension.

28. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

29. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

30. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

31. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

32. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

33. The use of Claim 32, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

34. The use of Claim 32, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

35. The use of Claim 27, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate .

36. Use of L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of portal hypertension related ascites in a subject suffering from portal hypertension.

37. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament comprises L-ornithine phenyl acetate.

38. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament comprises separate physiologically acceptable salts of said L-ornithine and at least one of phenylacetate and phenylbutyrate.

39. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament comprises a free monomeric amino acid or physiologically acceptable salt of L-ornithine.

40. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament comprises sodium phenylacetate or sodium phenylbutyrate.

41. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament is for oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, intragastric, or intravascular administration.

42. The use of Claim 41, wherein the medicament is for intravenous administration.

43. The use of Claim 41, wherein the medicament is for oral administration.

44. The use of Claim 36, wherein the medicament comprises between 20 g and 40 g of the L-ornithine and the phenylacetate or phenylbutyrate.