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(54) Title: METHODS AND MEANS TO PROMOTE GUT ABSORPTION

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to epidermal growth factor (EGF) producing lactic acid bacteria and their use to increase intestinal villi height and to promote gut absorption. In particular, the invention relates to EGF producing *Lactococcus lactis* and *Lactobacillus casei*. Said organisms may be especially useful to treat short bowel syndrome.