

The invention concerns new catechol derivatives of the general formula (I), in which azomethine-carboxylic acid rests, azobenzene-carboxylic acid rests, benzhydrazon rests, aminobenzoic acid rests and amino acid rests or dipeptides, pyrrolidine and/or oxazolidine carboxylic acid rests and formylcarboxymethyloxime rests act as structural elements, and the conjugates thereof with active ingredients such as antibiotics. The compounds according to the invention act as siderophors in gram-negative bacterial strains, in particular in pseudomonas and strains of E. coli, Salmonella, Klebsiella and Proteus, and can in the form of their conjugates with active ingredients, e.g. antibiotics (as "siderophor-antibiotic conjugates"), inject the latter into bacterial cells to improve or extend the anti-bacterial effectiveness of the cells, partly also for bacterial strains that are resistant to other 'beta'-lactams. In addition the said compounds are suitable for using as iron chelating agents for illnesses related to disruption of the iron metabolism. In the general formula (I), R1 = OH or OAcyl and R2 in third and/or fourth position means aromatic azomethine-carboxylic acid rests or azobenzene-carboxylic acid rests, benzhydrazon rests, aminobenzoic acid rests and amino acid rests, pyrrolidine and/or oxazolidine carboxylic acid rests and formylcarboxymethyloxime and/or conjugates with active ingredients, in particular antibiotics. Said compounds can be free acids in the form of their salts or esters that can be cleaved easily.

