CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

A brain atrophy suppressor containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) as an active ingredient which is to be administered to a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 2]

Use of a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) in the manufacture of a medicament for suppressing brain atrophy in a subject, wherein the subject is selected from a healthy individual in need of suppression of brain atrophy, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 3]

Use of a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) in the manufacture of a brain atrophy suppressor which is to be administered to a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild

cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 4]

A brain atrophy suppressor containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) as an active ingredient which is to be administered to a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease; wherein the subject is to be orally administered 1.0×10^{6} to 1.0×10^{12} CFU of the *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) per day.

[Claim 5]

Use of a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) in the manufacture of a medicament for suppressing brain atrophy in a subject, wherein the subject is selected from a healthy individual in need of suppression of brain atrophy, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease, and wherein the subject is to be orally administered 1.0×10^{6} to 1.0×10^{12} CFU of the *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-

11175) per day.

[Claim 6]

A food or a drink containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) which is labeled with a brain atrophy-suppressing effect on a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 7]

A food for suppressing brain atrophy containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) as an active ingredient which is to be taken by a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 8]

A supplement for suppressing brain atrophy containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) as an active ingredient, which is to be taken by a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual

diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.

[Claim 9]

A medicine for suppressing brain atrophy containing a culture containing *Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274 (FERM BP-11175) as an active ingredient, which is to be administered to a subject selected from a healthy individual, an individual diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, an individual assessed as having cognitive decline and a subject at a risk of a neurodegenerative disease.