CLAIMS

1. A composition for measuring the gastric-emptying function comprising a pyrimidine compound as an active ingredient, the pyrimidine compound being labeled with at least one isotope of C or O, converted into labeled CO_2 in the body, and excreted in expired air.

2. The composition for measuring the gastric-emptying function according to claim 1, wherein the isotope is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ^{13}C, ^{14}C and ^{18}O.

3. The composition for measuring the gastric-emptying function according to claim 1, wherein the pyrimidine compound is uracil or thymine.

4. A dyspepsia diagnostic agent consisting of a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. The dyspepsia diagnostic agent according to claim 4, wherein the dyspepsia is caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

6. A method for measuring the gastric-emptying function comprising:

orally administering a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 to a subject; and

measuring the amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air.

7. The method for measuring the gastric-emptying function according to claim 6, which comprises:

orally administering a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 to a subject in whom a drop or acceleration in the gastric-emptying function is suspected;

measuring the amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air; and

comparing the resulting amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 with that of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air collected from a healthy subject measured using the same composition.

8. A method for measuring the gastric-emptying function comprising:

using expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, as a test sample; and

measuring *in vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample.

9. The method for measuring the gastric-emptying function according to claim 8, which comprises:

using expired air from a subject in whom a drop or acceleration in the gastric-emptying function is suspected and who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, as a test sample;

measuring *in vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample; and

comparing the measured value with the amount of the labeled CO_2 in expired air collected from a healthy subject who had taken the same composition.

10. A method for diagnosing dyspepsia comprising:

orally administering to a subject a dyspepsia diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function based on the amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air.

11. The method for diagnosing dyspepsia according to claim 10, which comprises:

orally administering a dyspepsia diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5 to a subject in whom dyspepsia is suspected;

comparing the amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air collected from the subject with the amount or behavior of the labeled CO_2 collected from a healthy subject measured using the same diagnostic agent; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function of the subject.

12. A method for diagnosing dyspepsia comprising:

using expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken a dyspepsia diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5, as a test sample;

measuring *in vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function.

13. The method for diagnosing dyspepsia according to claim 12, which comprises:

using expired air collected from a subject in whom dyspepsia is suspected and who had orally taken a dyspepsia diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5, as a test sample;

measuring *in vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample;

comparing the measured value with the amount of labeled CO_2 in expired air collected from a healthy subject who had taken the same composition; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function.

14. The method for diagnosing dyspepsia according to claim 10 or 12, wherein the dyspepsia is caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

15. A method for measuring a gastrointestinal treatment effect on a subject comprising:

before and after conducting the gastrointestinal

treatment to a subject, orally administering a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 or a diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5 to the subject; and

comparing the amounts or behaviors of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air before and after the gastrointestinal treatment.

16. A method for measuring a pharmaceutical effect of a gastrointestinal medicine or a therapeutic effect on a subject comprising:

before and after administering the gastrointestinal medicine to the subject, orally administering to the subject a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 or a diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5; and

comparing the amounts or behaviors of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air before and after the administration of the gastrointestinal medicine.

17. A method for measuring a gastrointestinal treatment effect on a subject comprising:

using, as a test sample, expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 or a diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5 before and after conducting the gastrointestinal treatment; and

comparing the amounts of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air before and after the gastrointestinal treatment.

18. A method for evaluating a pharmaceutical effect of a gastrointestinal medicine or a therapeutic effect on a subject comprising:

using, as a test sample, expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 or a diagnostic agent of claim 4 or 5 before and after administering the gastrointestinal medicine to the subject; and

comparing the amounts of the labeled CO_2 excreted in

expired air before and after the administration of the gastrointestinal medicine.

19. The measuring method according to claim 16 or 18, wherein the gastrointestinal medicine affects the alimentary tract motor function.

20. The measuring method according to claim 16 or 18, which is used to measure the pharmaceutical effect of a gastrointestinal medicine or the therapeutic effect on a patient suffering from dyspepsia caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

21. A use of a pyrimidine compound for producing a dyspepsia diagnostic agent, the pyrimidine compound being labeled with either or both isotopes of C and O, converted into an isotope-labeled CO_2 gas in the body, and then excreted in expired air.

CLAIMS

1. A composition for use in a method for measuring the gastric-emptying function comprising at least one pyrimidine compound selected from uracil and thymine as an active ingredient,

the pyrimidine compound being labeled with at least one member selected from the group consisting of ^{13}C, ^{14}C and ^{18}O, converted into labeled CO_2 in the body, and excreted in expired air.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition contains any pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and /or additives.

3. The composition according to claim 2, wherein the composition is formed into a solid form selected from the group consisting of tablet, chewable tablet, capsule, pill, powders, fine particles and granules.

4. A composition for use in a method for diagnosing dyspepsia, wherein the composition is consisting of a composition as defined in any one of claims 1 and 3.

5. The composition according to claim 4, wherein the dyspepsia is caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

6. A method for measuring the gastric-emptying function comprising:

using expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, as a test sample; and

measuring in *vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample.

7. The method for measuring the gastric-emptying function according to claim 6, which comprises:

using expired air from a subject in whom a drop or acceleration in the gastric-emptying function is suspected and who had orally taken a composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, as a test sample;

measuring in *vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample; and

comparing the measured value with the amount of the labeled CO_2 in expired air collected from a healthy subject who had taken the same composition.

8. A method for diagnosing dyspepsia comprising:

using expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken the composition of claim 4 or 5, as a test sample;

measuring in *vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function.

9. The method for diagnosing dyspepsia according to claim 8, which comprises:

using expired air collected from a subject in whom dyspepsia is suspected and who had orally taken the composition of claim 4 or 5, as a test sample;

measuring in *vitro* the amount of the labeled CO_2 in the test sample;

comparing the measured value with the amount of labeled CO_2 in expired air collected from a healthy subject who had taken the same composition; and

measuring the gastric-emptying function.

10. The method for diagnosing dyspepsia according to claim 8 or 9, wherein the dyspepsia is caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

11. A method for measuring a gastrointestinal treatment effect on a subject comprising:

using, as a test sample, expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken the composition of any one of claims 1 to 5 before and after conducting the gastrointestinal treatment; and

comparing the amounts of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air before and after the gastrointestinal treatment.

12. A method for evaluating a pharmaceutical effect of a gastrointestinal medicine or a therapeutic effect on a subject comprising:

using, as a test sample, expired air collected from a subject who had orally taken the composition of any one claims 1 to 5 before and after administering the gastrointestinal medicine to the subject; and

comparing the amounts of the labeled CO_2 excreted in expired air before and after the administration of the gastrointestinal medicine.

13. The measuring method according to claim 12, wherein the gastrointestinal medicine affects the alimentary tract motor function.

14. The measuring method according to claim 12, which is used to measure the pharmaceutical effect of a gastrointestinal medicine or the therapeutic effect on a patient suffering from dyspepsia caused by an insufficient gastric-emptying function.

15. Use of a pyrimidine compound selected from uracil and thymine for producing a dyspepsia diagnostic agent, the pyrimidine compound being labeled with either or both isotopes of C and O, converted into an isotope-labeled CO_2 gas in the body, and then excreted in expired air.