Claims

[Claim 1]

A method for preparing a specimen for analyzing a resident skin bacterium and/or a substance present in the stratum corneum or observing the shape of the stratum corneum, comprising applying a solution containing a polyvinyl alcohol polymer to the skin so as to form a thin-film and peeling and collecting the formed thin-film.

[Claim 2]

The method according to claim 1, wherein the resident skin bacterium comprises a live bacterium.

[Claim 3]

The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the substance present in the stratum corneum comprises one or more selected from the group consisting of proteins, amino acids, lipids, nucleic acids, saccharides, vitamins, hormones, and peptides.

[Claim 4]

The method for preparing a specimen for observing the shape of the stratum corneum according to claim 1, further comprising immobilizing the peeled and collected thin-film to a support for microscopic observation, dissolving and removing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer, and then performing drying.

[Claim 5]

The method according to claim 4, wherein the immobilization is performed by affixing the thin-film to an

immobilizing agent applied to the support for microscopic observation.

[Claim 6]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of 70 to 99 mol%.

[Claim 7]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of polymerization of 50 to 3,000.

[Claim 8]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a viscosity (4% aqueous solution, temperature: 20°C) of 4 to 60 mPa·s.

[Claim 9]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a 10 to 30 mass% polyvinyl alcohol polymer solution.

[Claim 10]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is applied to the skin and is then left at room temperature for 20 minutes or more.

[Claim 11]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a

solution consisting of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer and a solvent.

[Claim 12]

A specimen for skin analysis or observation, which is prepared by the method according to claim 11.

[Claim 13]

A method for observing the shape of the stratum corneum, comprising microscopic observation using the specimen for skin observation prepared by the method according to claim 4 or 5.