CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

Use of bifidobacteria and water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for improving vascular endothelial function.

[Claim 2]

The use according to claim 1, wherein the improvement of vascular endothelial function includes a decrease in blood LDL-C level or a decrease in PAI-1 level, or both.

[Claim 3]

Use of bifidobacteria and water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for maintaining or preventing a decline in vascular flexibility or elasticity.

[Claim 4]

Use of bifidobacteria and water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for preventing arteriosclerosis.

[Claim 5]

Use of bifidobacteria and water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for improving kidney function.

[Claim 6]

Use of water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for improving vascular endothelial function, the composition comprising bifidobacteria.

[Claim 7]

The use according to claim 6, wherein the improvement of vascular endothelial function includes a decrease in blood

LDL-C level or a decrease in PAI-1 level, or both.

[Claim 8]

Use of water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for maintaining or preventing a decline in vascular flexibility or elasticity, the composition comprising bifidobacteria.

[Claim 9]

Use of water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for preventing arteriosclerosis, the composition comprising bifidobacteria.

[Claim 10]

Use of water-soluble dietary fiber for the manufacture of a composition for improving kidney function, the composition comprising bifidobacteria.

[Claim 11]

Use of bifidobacteria for the manufacture of a composition for improving vascular endothelial function, wherein the composition is for use in combination with water-soluble dietary fiber.

[Claim 12]

The use according to claim 11, wherein the improvement of vascular endothelial function includes a decrease in blood LDL-C level or a decrease in PAI-1 level, or both.

[Claim 13]

Use of bifidobacteria for the manufacture of a composition for maintaining or preventing a decline in vascular flexibility or elasticity, wherein the composition is for use in combination with water-soluble dietary fiber.

[Claim 14]

Use of bifidobacteria for the manufacture of a composition for preventing arteriosclerosis, wherein the composition is for use in combination with water-soluble dietary fiber.

[Claim 15]

Use of bifidobacteria for the manufacture of a composition for improving kidney function, wherein the composition is for use in combination with water-soluble dietary fiber.

[Claim 16]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the water-soluble dietary fiber comprises inulin.

[Claim 17]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the bifidobacteria have an ability to proliferate in the gut.

[Claim 18]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the bifidobacteria have an anti-metabolic syndrome effect.

[Claim 19]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the composition is a food product.

[Claim 20]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the composition further comprises arginine.