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, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of 70 to 99 mol%, a degree of polymerization of 50 to 3,000, and a viscosity (4% aqueous solution, temperature: 20°C) of 4 to 60 mPa·s, and the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a 10 to 30 mass% polyvinyl alcohol polymer solution.

[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 according to claim 1, wherein the method is a method for preparing a specimen for observing the shape of the stratum corneum, and the method further comprises 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 solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is applied to the skin and is then left at room temperature for 20 minutes or more.

[Claim 7]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a solution consisting of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer and a solvent.

[Claim 8]

A thin film specimen for skin analysis or observation, wherein the thin film comprises stratum corneum and a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of 70 to 99 mol%, a degree of polymerization of 50 to 3,000, and a viscosity (4% aqueous solution, temperature: 20°C) of 4 to 60 mPa·s.

[Claim 9]

A method for 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, peeling and collecting the formed thin-film, immobilizing the peeled and collected thin-film to a support for microscopic observation, dissolving and removing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer and performing drying to prepare a specimen, and performing microscopic observation using the specimen, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a polyvinyl alcohol polymer having a degree of saponification of 70 to 99 mol%, a degree of polymerization of 50 to 3,000, and a viscosity (4% aqueous solution, temperature: 20°C) of 4 to 60 mPa·s, and the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a 10 to 30 mass% polyvinyl alcohol polymer solution.

[Claim 10]

The method according to claim 9, wherein the immobilization is performed by affixing the thin-film to an immobilizing agent applied to the support for microscopic observation.