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 ~~according to claim 1~~, and the method further ~~comprising~~ 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 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~~6]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to ~~9~~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 ~~11~~7]

The method according to any one of claims 1 to ~~10~~6, wherein the solution containing the polyvinyl alcohol polymer is a solution consisting of the polyvinyl alcohol polymer and a solvent.

[Claim ~~12~~8]

~~A specimen for skin analysis or observation, which is prepared by the method according to claim 11.~~ 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 ~~13~~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 ~~for skin observation prepared by the method according to claim 4 or 5~~, 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.