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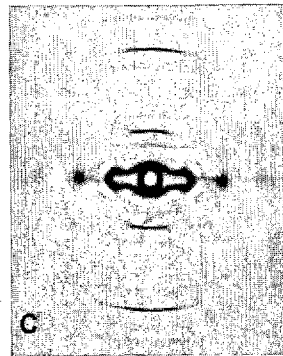
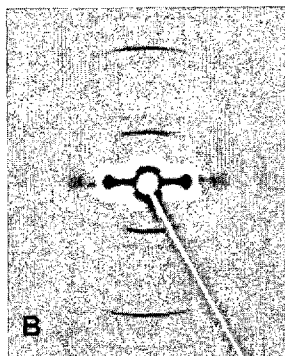
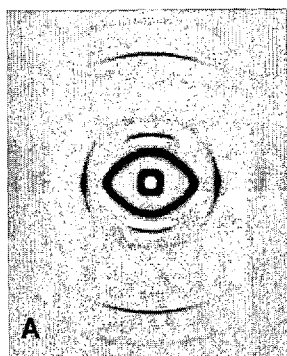
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Effect of swelling agents on the SAXS patterns of hair from an individual with breast cancer. A, before treatment, showing a distinct ring in the zone of interest; B, post-treatment with acetic acid; C, post-treatment with 85% formic acid.

(57) Abstract: A method for detecting a presence of an abnormal component in a keratin sample taken from a subject suffering from a pathological state comprising the steps of : a) exposing the keratin sample to a swelling substance so as to penetrate the keratin sample thereby producing a derived chemical substance; b) obtaining data from the derived chemical substance; c) comparing the data obtained from the derived chemical substance with a second group of data contained in a reference database so as to identify the presence of the abnormal component in the keratin sample; whereby detection of the abnormal component is consistent with a presence of the pathological state in the subject.

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