

ABSTRACT

An object is to provide a joint function-improving composition which is useful for prevention or treatment of various arthropathies such as osteoarthritis including knee osteoarthritis as a typical example and rheumatoid arthritis because the composition has an action of promoting growth of chondrocytes and an action of suppressing the production of an inflammation factor, a cartilage matrix degradation factor, a pain factor or a neuronal outgrowth factor by synoviocytes and to provide a joint function-improving product containing the composition such as a food or a drink, feed and a medicine. A joint function-improving composition containing bacterial cells and/or a culture of a bacterium belonging to genera *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Streptococcus* or *Bifidobacterium* and a joint function-improving agent, a joint function-improving food or drink, a joint function-improving nutritional composition, joint function-improving feed or a joint function-improving pharmaceutical agent which is characterized by containing the joint function-improving composition.

No Figure