[Claim 1] (amended)

A method for visualizing a degenerative site of articular cartilage, comprising a step of spraying, adding dropwise, applying or dipping an articular cartilage imaging composition containing a positively charged albumin labeled with a labeling molecule to a surface of articular cartilage having a degenerative site, thereby adsorbing the positively charged albumin to the degenerative site of the articular cartilage; a step of washing the articular cartilage to remove excessive articular cartilage imaging composition; and a step of detecting the labeling molecule of the positively charged albumin adsorbed to the degenerative site of the articular cartilage.

[Claim 2] (amended)

The method for visualizing a degenerative site of articular cartilage according to Claim 1, wherein the degenerative site of the articular cartilage is a state where a lamellar cell layer of a cartilage tissue is removed or a state where a defective portion is present from the surface layer toward the deep portion of a cartilage tissue.

[Claim 3] (deleted)

[Claim 4] (deleted)

[Claim 5] (deleted)

[Claim 6] (amended)

The method for visualizing a degenerative site of articular cartilage according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a radioisotope, an X-ray absorbing substance, an antibody molecule and a molecule having a recognition site recognized by a specific antibody.

[Claim 7] (amended)

The method for visualizing a degenerative site of articular cartilage according to Claim 6, wherein the fluorescent substance is indocyanine green.

[Claim 8] (amended)

The method for visualizing a degenerative site of articular cartilage according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a magnetic particle, a metal particle, a metal nanoparticle and another nano material-containing substance.

[Document Name] Claims

[Claim 1]

An articular cartilage imaging composition containing a positively charged molecule, wherein the positively charged molecule is labeled with a labeling molecule.

[Claim 2]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to Claim 1, wherein the positively charged molecule is a protein or peptide compound positively charged.

[Claim 3]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to Claim 2, wherein the protein or peptide compound is an albumin, an albumin decomposition product or a modified albumin compound.

[Claim 4]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to Claim 1, wherein the positively charged molecule is a positively charged compound having a sugar chain.

[Claim 5]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to Claim 4, wherein the compound having a sugar chain is dextran, cyclodextrin or a derivative thereof.

[Claim 6]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a radioisotope, an X-ray absorbing substance, an antibody molecule and a molecule having a recognition site recognized by a specific antibody.

[Claim 7]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to Claim 6, wherein the fluorescent substance is indocyanine green.

[Claim 8]

The articular cartilage imaging composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a magnetic particle, a metal particle, a metal nanoparticle and another nano material-containing substance.

Claims

[Claim 1]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage wherein the composition contains a positively charged albumin labeled with a labeling molecule.

[Claim 2]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage according to Claim 1 wherein the composition is sprayed, added dropwise, applied to, or dipped in a surface of articular cartilage having a degenerative site, thereby adsorbing the positively charged albumin to the degenerative site in the articular cartilage.

[Claim 3]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the degenerative site of the articular cartilage is a state where a lamellar cell layer of a cartilage tissue is removed or a state where a defective portion is present from the surface layer toward the deep portion of a cartilage tissue.

[Claim 4]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent substance, a radioisotope, an X-ray absorbing substance, an antibody molecule and a molecule having a recognition site recognized by a specific antibody.

[Claim 5]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage according to Claim 4, wherein the fluorescent substance is indocyanine green.

[Claim 6]
A composition for visualizing a degenerative site in articular cartilage according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the labeling molecule is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of a magnetic particle, a metal particle, a metal nanoparticle and another nano material-containing substance.