

ABSTRACT

A method for producing a water-absorbent resin including the step of
subjecting a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer to a reversed
5 phase suspension polymerization in a petroleum hydrocarbon dispersion
medium in the presence of a radical polymerization initiator and a
dispersion stabilizer, wherein the method is characterized by the use of an
ether-ester type nonionic surfactant as the dispersion stabilizer, and a water-
absorbent resin obtained by the method, wherein the water-absorbent resin
10 has a water-retention capacity of saline solution of 25 g/g or more, a water-
absorption rate of saline solution of 50 seconds or less, and a flow index
under moisture absorption of 70% or more. According to the method of the
present invention, a water-absorbent resin having high water-retention
capacity, excellent water-absorption rate, and further having excellent
15 flowability under moisture absorption can be produced. The water-
absorbent resin having the specified physical properties as described above
can enhance properties of hygienic materials, and the resin can be suitably
used in the production of the hygienic materials.