

gel of enzyme-solubilized, telopeptide-poor, defatted collagen, said gel comprising 1.0 to 30.0 wt. % collagen and the balance water.

4. A soft contact lens of claim 3 in which the collagen gel content is 1 to 20 wt. %.

5. A soft contact lens of claim 3 in which the collagen gel content is 5 to 12 wt. %.

6. A soft contact lens of claim 3 in which the collagen is chemically-modified collagen.

7. A soft contact lens of claim 6 in which the collagen is esterified collagen.

8. A soft contact lens of claim 7 in which the collagen is methylated collagen.

9. A soft contact lens of claim 6 in which the collagen is acylated collagen.

10. A soft contact lens of claim 9 in which the collagen is succinylated collagen.

11. A method for the manufacture of a soft contact lens which comprises solubilizing collagen from a source thereof to produce a collagen extract, removing fatty constituents from the extract, converting the extracted and defatted collagen to form a transparent gel having a collagen concentration of 1-30 wt. % forming said contact lens of such gel and cross-linking the lens.

12. A method according to claim 11 in which the lens-shaped gel is chemically cross-linked.

13. A method for the manufacture of a soft contact lens which comprises treating a source of collagen with a proteolytic enzyme to produce an extract of telopeptide-poor collagen, removing fatty constituents from the extract, converting the extracted, defatted collagen to form a transparent gel having a collagen concentration of 1 to 30 wt. %, forming said contact lens of such gel, and cross-linking the lens.

14. A process according to claim 13 in which the cross-linking is carried out by irradiation with gamma rays in the presence of nitrogen.

15. The process of claim 13 in which the collagen concentration of the gel is in the range of 1% to 30% with the balance being water.

16. The process of claim 13 in which the transparent gel is formed into a lens in a lens mold.

17. A process according to claim 13 in which the collagen is succinylated prior to shaping and cross-linking.

18. A process according to claim 13 in which the collagen is methylated prior to shaping and cross-linking.

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