

# Hope for healing

your venous leg ulcer.

Everything to know about a unique advanced treatment for healing your venous leg ulcer.



  
**Apligraf®**  
*add life to healing*

# No need to feel hopeless.

Apligraf® is a unique product for treating venous leg ulcers. It contains living cells, proteins produced by the cells, and collagen, which are important for healing.



## **Apligraf has been used to treat many thousands of patients.**

Your doctor has given you this brochure because you have a slow healing wound known as a venous leg ulcer (VLU).

Venous leg ulcers result from poor circulation of blood from your legs to your heart. The increased pressure of blood backing up in your legs may cause the skin to break down, forming an ulcer.

The standard treatment for healing venous leg ulcers is compression therapy. Compression therapy consists of a tightly wrapped bandage that produces pressure around the ulcer site and back up to the heart. Although it can be an effective treatment, compression therapy may take a long time to heal the ulcer and does not work for everyone.

When a venous leg ulcer (VLU) lingers for weeks, months or even years without healing, it can seem hopeless. It's frustrating when your body just does not heal, no matter what treatments you try. But there is real hope for healing your ulcer with Apligraf, using the latest in biotechnology for wound care.

Apligraf is made up of living cells, proteins produced by the cells, and collagen. The living cells and proteins are similar to those found in human skin. Apligraf does not contain certain things found in human skin such as pigment cells, cells from the immune system, blood vessels, hair follicles, or sweat glands.

Apligraf is not another ointment or dressing. It is an advanced treatment that helps promote healing of VLUs.

This brochure will familiarize you with Apligraf. Plus, you'll find out how to take better care of yourself and your condition to prevent these ulcers from coming back.

To learn more about your venous leg ulcer, please talk to your doctor.

**To learn more about Apligraf, please ask your doctor or visit  
[www.apligraf.com](http://www.apligraf.com)**

# What is Apligraf®?

## Advanced treatment for wound care, today.

Apligraf is a unique treatment for healing. It is created from cells found in healthy human skin and collagen derived from cows. In fact, it looks like a thin piece of real skin.

It is used to heal venous leg ulcers that are not healing after 4 weeks treatment with standard therapies.

Apligraf has 2 types of cells – an outer layer of protective skin cells, and an inner layer of cells contained within collagen. Both types of cells contain substances similar to those found in human skin.\*

Apligraf plays an active role in healing by providing to the wound living cells proteins produced by the cells, and collagen, which are important for healing.

## How does Apligraf compare to other wound care products?

- **FDA approved:** Apligraf is an FDA-approved product. In multiple controlled clinical studies, it has been shown to be an effective and safe wound treatment. Many wound care products cannot make such claims
- **Better healing compared to basic wound care:** Studies showed that Apligraf heals more wounds than standard treatment alone. And does it faster
- **Active vs passive wound healing:** Many wound treatments passively manage the wound. Apligraf plays a more active role by delivering to the wound living cells, proteins produced by the cells, and collagen, which are important for healing
- **A living product resembling our own skin:** Apligraf is the only product approved for both diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers, containing 2 different types of skin cells combined with collagen
- **Easy:** Apligraf typically requires no maintenance. Dressings are usually changed once a week by your doctor or nurse depending on your wound type. It is very important to keep your follow-up visits and to follow your doctor's directions carefully. If you have any signs of infection such as tenderness to the touch, redness, pain, heat, and/or swelling, contact your doctor immediately

\* Apligraf does not contain certain things found in human skin such as pigment cells, cells from the immune system, blood vessels, hair follicles, or sweat glands.

# Is Apligraf Safe?

## How well does Apligraf work?

Apligraf, when combined with compression therapy, has been shown to heal more venous leg ulcers than standard therapy alone. Of course, it is better to prevent a venous leg ulcer than to have to treat one.

Apligraf has been used to treat many thousands of patients. Your doctor should not apply Apligraf if the wound is infected or if you are allergic to cow collagen or to any of the components in the Apligraf shipping gel.<sup>†</sup> No allergic reactions have been reported in studies with more than 1,000 patients. However, you should tell your doctor immediately if you have any allergy symptoms.

In a study of patients treated with Apligraf, the most common health problems were related to an open ulcer, or the skin. These potential problems were usually temporary or treatable by a doctor. The health problems in the Apligraf patients were similar to those found in patients treated with compression therapy. The most common health problems were:

- suspected wound infection
- skin inflammation
- wound drainage
- swelling
- a skin tear or cut
- pain
- new ulcer
- red flaky skin

Suspected wound infection was more common in patients receiving Apligraf. Some patients had health problems not associated with the skin. The incidences of these problems were similar between patients receiving Apligraf or compression therapy.

While the safety of Apligraf in VLU patients has not been studied beyond 1 year, Apligraf has been used to treat many thousands of patients. Patients treated with Apligraf have shown no increased risk for developing cancer; however, the long-term possibility has not been studied.

**For a more complete description of APLIGRAF, or for more information about side effects, please read the Apligraf complete prescribing information contained in the back of the brochure or talk to your doctor.**

<sup>†</sup> Contains agarose, L-glutamine, hydrocortisone, human recombinant insulin, DMEM powder, HAM's F-12 powder, calcium chloride, sodium bicarbonate, adenine, selenious acid, ethanolamine, O-phosphorylrethanolamine, and water for injection.

# How is Apligraf® applied?

**Apligraf has been used to treat many thousands of patients.**

**Apligraf heals more wounds than standard treatment alone. And does it faster.<sup>1,2</sup>**

Apligraf is a living product that must be ordered by your doctor. It may be applied in a hospital, in a Wound Care Center, or in your doctor's office.



- A** First, your doctor will clean your ulcer and possibly debride it (debriding removes dead, damaged, or infected tissue from a wound). Then Apligraf is placed directly on the ulcer.



- B** The wound is then covered with a non-adhesive dressing to keep it moist and to keep Apligraf in place.



- C** The area is then wrapped with other dressings that are changed weekly by the doctor or nurse. The healing process now begins and improvement of the wound can usually be seen within weeks. If you have any signs of infection, such as tenderness to the touch, redness, pain, heat, and/or swelling, contact your doctor immediately.

**Apligraf has been clinically proven to be more effective than standard wound care alone for ulcers that haven't progressed toward healing after FOUR weeks.<sup>1,2</sup>**



**weeks**

# What happens after Apligraf® is applied?

Once Apligraf is applied, your doctor or nurse will give you instructions to follow while your wound is healing.

- Be careful not to disturb your wound or get it wet during the first week of healing
- Within the first week you may have a follow-up visit with your doctor to check the healing progress
- After that your doctor may schedule weekly follow-up visits until your wound is healed
- It is very important to keep your follow-up visits and to follow your doctor's directions carefully

Apligraf is used together with compression therapy, and your doctor will instruct you to wear compression bandages until your ulcer is healed and possibly afterward. Your doctor may also want you to keep your leg raised as much as possible during the day and to use pillows or cushions to keep your leg slightly raised while you are sleeping. Follow all of your doctor's directions carefully.

**IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY SIGNS OF INFECTION, SUCH AS TENDERNESS TO THE TOUCH, REDNESS, PAIN, HEAT, AND/OR SWELLING, CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY.**



**Apligraf delivers to the wound living cells, proteins produced by the cells, and collagen, which are important for healing.**



# Preventing your ulcer from coming back.

## What can I do to keep my ulcer from coming back?

As you know, treating venous leg ulcers can be challenging, both emotionally and physically. In addition, treatments like Apligraf® do not address the underlying health conditions that lead to these types of ulcers. This means that even after successful treatment of an ulcer, you are still at risk for another one if you don't improve your existing health condition. The most effective way to improve your quality of life is to do what you can to prevent a non-healing ulcer from starting or coming back.

### Venous leg ulcer prevention

- Avoid long periods of sitting or standing whenever possible
- Raise your legs above the level of your heart as often as possible
- Wear compression stockings as instructed by your doctor
- Always wear well-fitting shoes when walking—never go barefoot
- Talk to your doctor before you begin any fitness program
- Maintain a balanced diet—reduce your weight as recommended by your doctor
- Wash your legs and feet daily using a mild soap and warm (not hot) water
- Inspect your legs and feet regularly for signs of swelling, discoloration, dryness, bruises, or sores—tell your doctor immediately if you see any changes or injuries

# Apligraf a proven advanced treatment for venous leg ulcers.

**Q:** What kinds of ulcers does Apligraf treat?

**A:** Apligraf is indicated to treat non-healing diabetic foot ulcers and venous leg ulcers that have not responded to conventional therapy.

**Q:** Does Apligraf really work better than traditional therapies for venous leg ulcers?

**A:** Yes. When used in combination with good wound care, Apligraf has been proven to heal ulcers better than standard therapy and does it faster.

**Q:** How quickly will I see results with Apligraf?

**A:** This depends on the nature of your ulcer and underlying medical condition. Apligraf begins to work as soon as it is placed on the wound. Improvement can usually be seen within weeks.

**Q:** How many applications of Apligraf will I need?

**A:** Again, that depends on the nature of your ulcer and underlying medical condition. While some patients may heal with a single application, others might require several applications.

**Q:** What is a Wound Care Center and how do I find one?

**A:** A Wound Care Center is a clinic specializing in the treatment of non-healing wounds and ulcers. They provide advanced wound healing techniques and state-of-the-art wound assessment, testing, and treatment. To find a Wound Care Center nearest you, go to [www.apligraf.com](http://www.apligraf.com).

Ask your doctor for more information  
about venous leg ulcers and Apligraf.

[www.apligraf.com](http://www.apligraf.com)

1.888.HEAL.2.DAY

(1.888.432.5232)

  
**Apligraf**<sup>®</sup>  
*add life to healing*

# References

1. Falanga V, Sabolinski ML. A bilayered living skin construct (Apligraf®) accelerates complete closure of hard-to-heal venous ulcers. *Wound Repair Regen.* 1999;7:201-207.
2. Veves A, Falanga V, Armstrong DG, Sabolinski ML; Apligraf Diabetic Foot Ulcer Study. Graftskin, a human skin equivalent, is effective in management of non-infected neuropathic diabetic foot ulcers. *Diabetes Care.* 2001;24:290-295.

**Follow your doctor or nurse's advice on how to prevent your ulcer from coming back.**



  
**Apligraf**®  
*add life to healing*

**Organogenesis inc.**

LIVING TECHNOLOGY

Please see complete prescribing information enclosed, or visit [www.Apligraf.com](http://www.Apligraf.com)