

From



WOUND CARE
EDUCATION INSTITUTE®



What you need to know about collagen wound dressings

By Nancy Morgan, RN, BSN, MBA, WOC, WCC, DWC, OMS

Each month, *Apple Bites* brings you a tool you can apply in your daily practice.

Description

Collagen, the protein that gives the skin its tensile strength, plays a key role in each phase of wound healing. It attracts cells, such as fibroblasts and keratinocytes, to the wound, which encourages debridement, angiogenesis, and reepithelialization. In addition, collagen provides a natural scaffold or substrate for new tissue growth.

Collagen dressings stimulate new tissue growth and encourage the deposition and organization of newly formed collagen fibers and granulation tissue in the wound bed. These dressings chemically bind to matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) found in the extracellular fluid of wounds. MMPs normally attack and break down collagen, so it's thought that wound dressings containing collagen give MMPs an alternative collagen source, leaving the body's natural collagen avail-

able for normal wound healing.

Indications

Examples of wounds that may benefit from a collagen dressing include:

- partial- and full-thickness wounds
- wounds with minimal to heavy exudate
- skin grafts and skin donation sites
- second-degree burns
- granulating or necrotic wounds
- chronic nonhealing wounds (to jump-start wounds that are stalled in the inflammatory phase by reducing mediators of inflammation).

Contraindications

Don't use collagen dressings in the following circumstances:

- third-degree burns
- patient sensitivity to bovine (cattle), porcine (swine), or avian (bird) products
- wounds covered in dry eschar.

COLLAGEN

N

How to apply

Some collagen products will require a secondary cover dressing. Application technique varies based upon manufacturer recommendations.

Frequency of dressing changes

The frequency of dressing changes varies depending on the brand, but ranges from daily to every 7 days.

Collagen provides a natural scaffold or substrate for new tissue growth.

Formulations

A variety of topical formulations of collagen are available, such as freeze-dried sheets, pastes, pads, powder, and gels. Some dressings include alginates or even antimicrobial additives. The collagen source varies—bovine, porcine, or avian.

Examples

BGC Matrix[®]; BIOSTEP[◇] Collagen Matrix; Catrix[®] Wound Dressing; CellerateRX[®] Gel or Powder; ColActive[®] Plus; Excellagen[®]; FIBRACOL[®] Plus; Promogran Prisma[®] Matrix; Puracol[®] Plus; Stimulen[™] Collagen Gel, Lotion, Powder, or Sheets; Triple Helix Collagen Dressing

The HCPCS (Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System) codes for collagen dressings are A6021-A6024. ■

Nancy Morgan, cofounder of the Wound Care Education Institute, combines her expertise as a Certified Wound Care Nurse with an extensive background in wound care education and program development as a nurse entrepreneur. Read her blog, "[Wound Care Swagger.](#)"

Information in Apple Bites is courtesy of the [Wound Care Education Institute \(WCEI\)](#), copyright 2013.

Present Your Wound Care Credentials With **Distinction.**



National Alliance of Wound Care
and Ostomy™

The NAWCO online Print Shop offers custom business materials that you can order online. Each piece is professionally designed to visually promote you and all your active NAWCO credentials.

- Business Cards
- Note Cards
- Post Cards

[CLICK HERE](#)

To browse the print shop and order
24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

