

### #3 What do we have to lose but a limb? Bilayered living cell therapy as last resort for Diabetic Heel Ulcer

Peripheral vascular disease is a very common condition in the United States. It occurs mostly in people older than 50 years. Peripheral vascular disease is a leading cause of disability among people older than 50 years and in those with diabetes.

About 12 million people in the United States have peripheral vascular disease, which translates to about 5% of people older than 50 years. The number of people with the condition is expected to grow as the population ages. Men are slightly more likely than women to have peripheral vascular disease.

Peripheral vascular disease is more common in smokers, and the combination of diabetes and smoking almost always results in more severe disease.

A 75 year old male with history of diabetes and peripheral arterial disease. He has undergone previous vascular procedures, and a below knee amputation on the left limb. He develops 4 ulcers on the contralateral right limb. Vascular surgery has indicated that there are no revascularization options, and patient is refusing another BKA. Use of a bilayered living cell therapy is off label in the face of severe vascular disease, it is stated as a contraindication on the package insert. This clinician opted to use the living cell therapy off label to salvage the only remaining limb. 2 ulcers healed with 1 application of the bilayered cells, and 2 larger and deeper wounds healed with a second application of the bilayered cell therapy within 16 weeks from time of first application. The author would like to suggest that when all appears to be lost, use of bilayered cell therapy may be a viable option prior to the final amputation of a remaining limb. Patient's quality of life is now maintained, he continues to use a prosthetic and wheelchair to remain mobile, and care for his wife who has Alzheimer's.