

CASE 29-2

A 50-year-old diabetic patient has a 4-month history of an arterial ulcer on the dorsum of his foot that is slowly improving with Apligraf, but has not healed completely.



What one management choice would be the best next step to implement to heal this ulcer completely?

- (A) Compression stockings and oral antibiotics
- (B) Compression stockings and topical antibiotics
- (C) Debridement of the ulcer bed
- (D) Consultation to vascular surgery
- (E) Biopsy of the edge of the lesion to rule out a malignancy

The correct answer is (D), consultation to vascular surgery.

Compression is contraindicated in arterial ulcers because it can lead to ischemia and necrosis. This ulcer has a clean bed and does not require debridement. Ulcers that are due to an underlying malignancy typically do not improve with treatment.