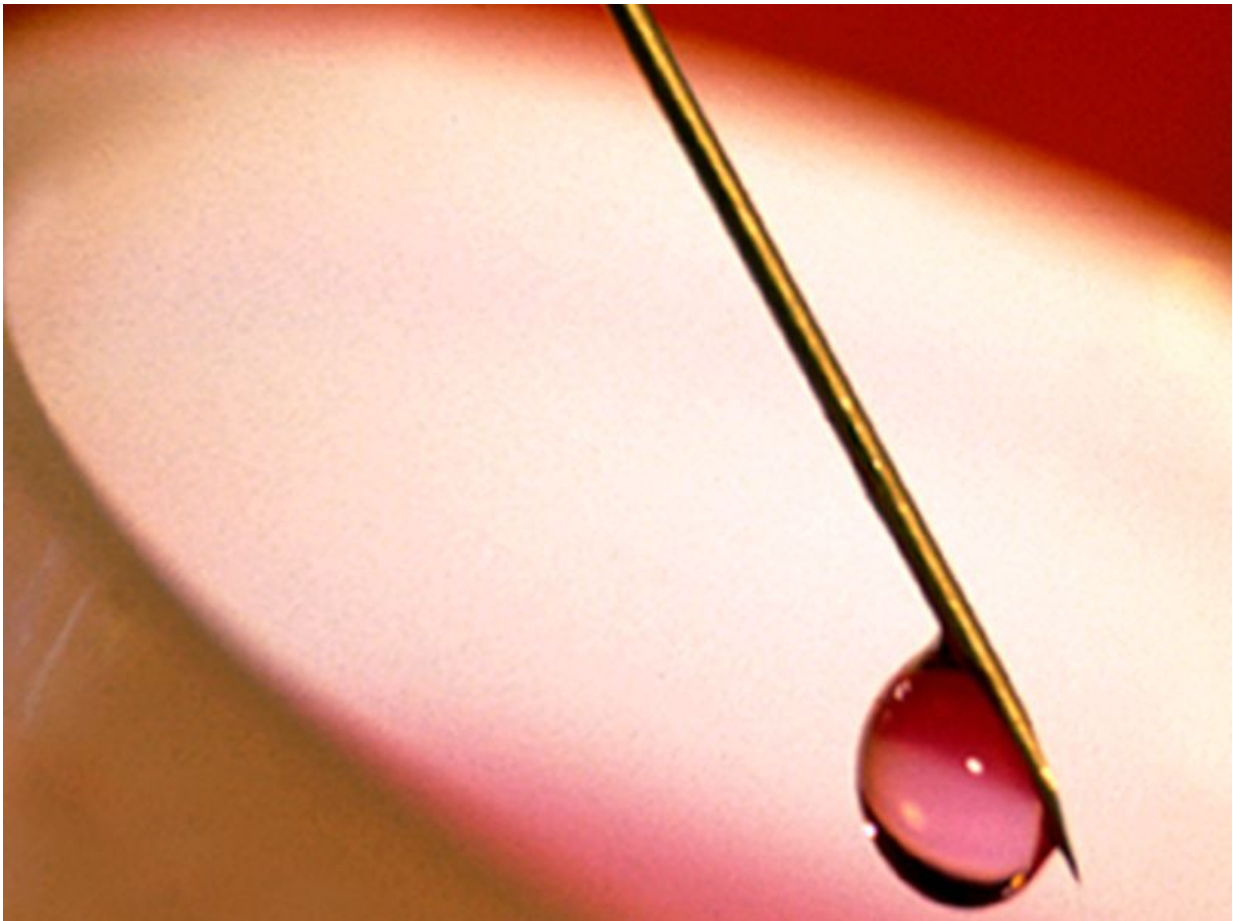


Drop-to-drop variation seen with fingerprick blood

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(HealthDay)—There is drop-to-drop variation in blood component

measures from fingerprick blood that is greater than variation in drops of venous blood, according to a study published recently in the *American Journal of Clinical Pathology*.

Meaghan M. Bond and Rebecca R. Richards-Kortum, Ph.D., both from Rice University in Houston, used a hematology analyzer to analyze the [hemoglobin](#) concentration, total white blood cell (WBC) count, three-part WBC differential, and platelet count in six successive drops of blood collected from one fingerprick from each of 11 donors. Additionally, a hemoglobinometer was used to measure the [hemoglobin concentration](#) of 10 drops of fingerprick blood from each of seven donors.

The researchers found that the average percent coefficient of variation (CV) for successive [drops](#) of fingerprick blood ranged from three times higher (for lymphocyte count) to more than seven times higher (for granulocyte count), compared to venous controls measured using a hematology analyzer. For hemoglobin, the average percent CV for fingerprick blood was up to five times higher, compared to venous blood measured using a point-of-care hemoglobinometer.

"These data suggest caution when using measurements from a single drop of fingerprick [blood](#)," the authors write.

More information: [Full Text](#)

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