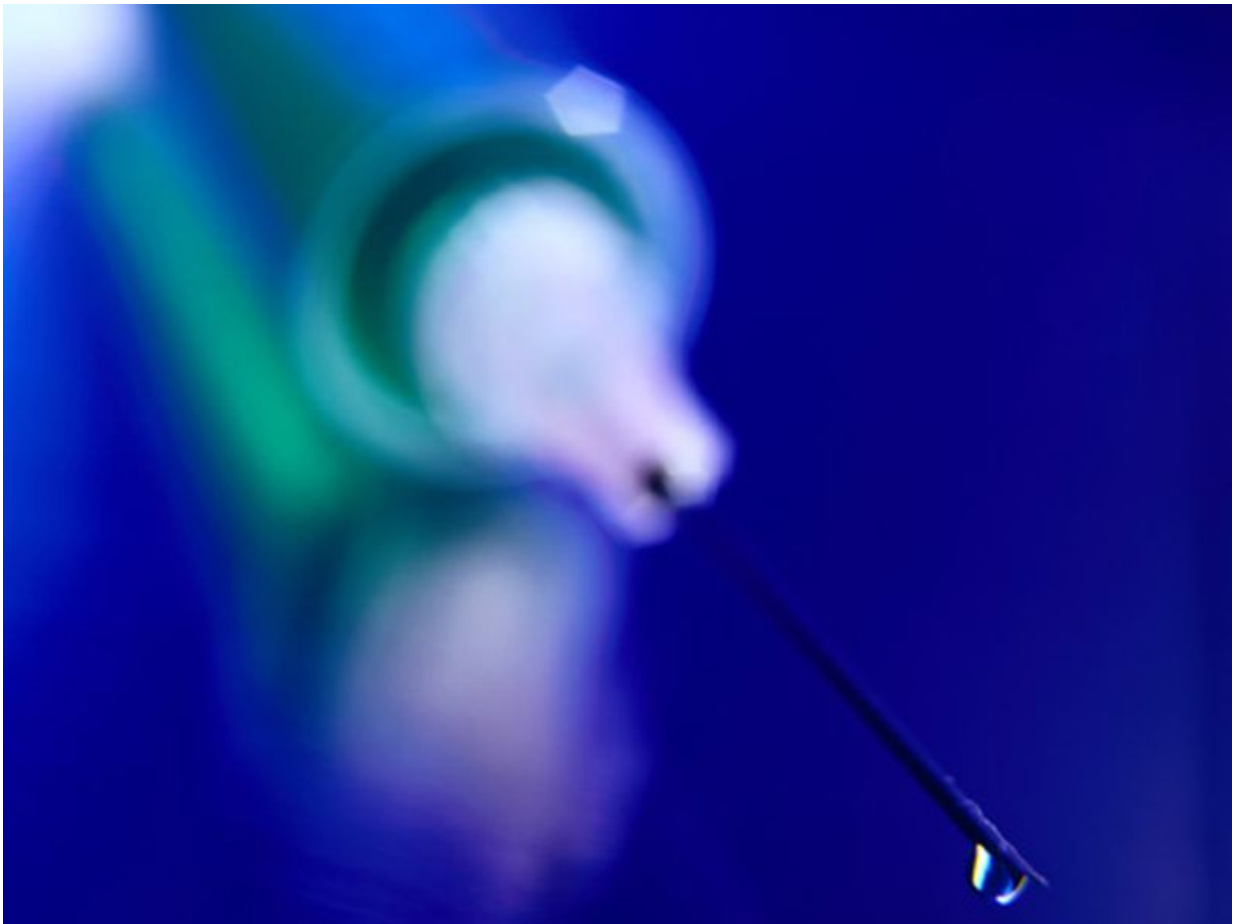


Single-dose LMWH can interfere with algorithm for DVT diagnosis

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(HealthDay)—A single dose of low-molecular-weight heparin (LMWH)

given the previous day can reduce D-dimer and potentially risk non-identification of a deep vein thrombosis (DVT), according to a research letter published online Dec. 15 in the *International Journal of Laboratory Hematology*.

Peter M. Baker and David M. Keeling, M.B., Ch.B., from the Oxford Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre in the United Kingdom, examined whether a single dose of LMWH given in the community when a patient presented to their general practitioner too late in the day for referral would render the D-dimer algorithm unusable the following morning. Paired samples were collected for D-dimer estimation from 50 patients pre-administration of LMWH and on presentation to the DVT clinic the following morning.

The researchers found that the sample taken post-administration of a single dose of LMWH showed a significantly lower D-dimer, from 2,670 µg/L to 2,274 µg/L (16.4 percent reduction; $P < 0.01$). Reduction in D-dimer crossed the normal range of

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