

# A complete blood count from one drop of blood

Capillary blood sampling can be an option for patients that are hard to puncture such as elderly. As a fingerstick often is easier on the patient, capillary sampling is typically also used with children and critically ill patients.

When performing a finger stick, there are some things to consider to ensure reliable results with an automated hematology analyzer.

## Ensure a good blood flow

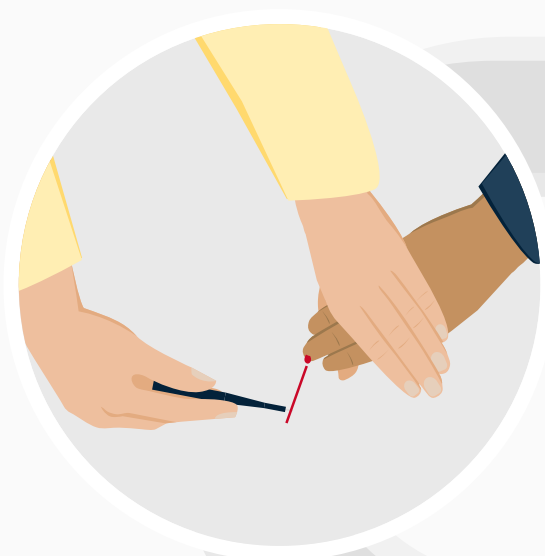
- Warm the sampling site for skin puncture 3–5 min.
- Keep the hand in a low, relaxed position to ensure a good blood flow
- Disinfect the sampling area and let air dry.



## Perform the puncture

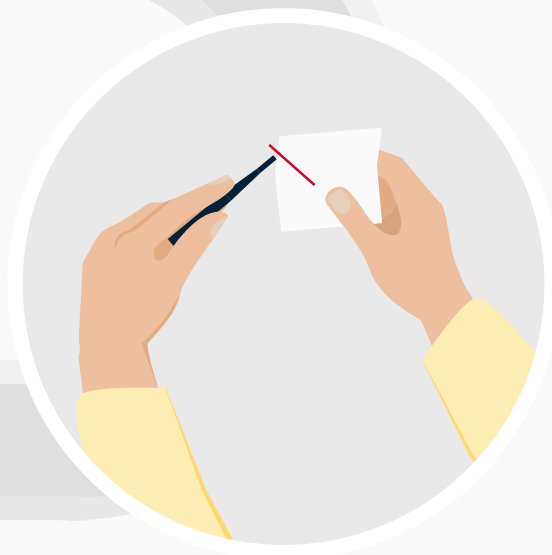
- Take a firm grip of the whole hand, not just one finger.
- Puncture using a 2 mm lancet and apply a light pressure, then release to obtain a free flow.

*Note! Pressing too hard will cause tissue fluid to dilute the sample, resulting in falsely low results.*



## Collect the blood sample

- Wipe off the first drop of blood with a clean tissue.
- When second drop forms, collect in micropipette.
- Completely fill the micropipette and make sure there is no air trapped inside.
- Carefully wipe off any blood on the outside of the micropipette.



## Analyze

- Insert filled micropipette into the MPA adapter.
- Insert the adapter into the analyzer, and analysis cycle will automatically begin.

*Note! Samples should be analyzed directly after collection, and for optimal results, no longer than 10 min from collection.*



## Read the result

- The results are displayed within one minute.

