I thank Dr. Mariette and colleagues [1] for their interest in my Physiological Note [2]. I agree with the authors that the presence of genetic hemoglobinopathies can affect the accuracy of pulse oximeter readings. Because pulse oximetry measures only functional hemoglobin, the presence of other hemoglobins, including the unstable ones that Mariette et al. refer to, can lead to inaccurate readings [3, 4]. Because the reports examining the effect of unstable hemoglobins on the accuracy of pulse oximetry have largely consisted of case reports, I purposely excluded them from my review.

Reference

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