

INDICATION

Assists in determining whether a pleural effusion is transudative or exudative

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EXUDATIVE	TRANSUDATIVE
Malignancy	Heart failure
ARDS	Atelectasis
Meigs syndrome	CSF leak into pleural space
Pancreatitis	Hepatic hydrothorax
Eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis	Hypoalbuminemia
Granulomatosis with polyangiitis	Nephrotic syndrome
Lupus	Peritoneal dialysis
Hypothyroidism	Urinothorax
Chylothorax	
Lung abscess	
Sarcoidosis	

INTERPRETATION

LIGHT'S CRITERIA	SENSITIVITY	SPECIFICITY
Pleural fluid protein <sub>g/L</sub> / Serum total protein <sub>g/L</sub> >0.5	86%	84%
Pleural fluid LDH <sub>U/L</sub> / Serum LDH <sub>U/L</sub> >0.6	90%	82%
Pleural fluid LDH <sub>U/L</sub> > 2/3 * Serum LDH <sub>U/L</sub> Upper limit of	82%	89%

CALCULATION

- Exudative effusions ≥1 of the following:**
- Pleural fluid protein<sub>g/L</sub> / Serum total protein<sub>g/L</sub> >0.5
  - Pleural fluid LDH<sub>U/L</sub> / Serum LDH<sub>U/L</sub> >0.6
  - Pleural fluid LDH<sub>U/L</sub> > 2/3 \* Serum LDH<sub>U/L</sub> Upper limit of normal