

# INDICATION

Calculates the gradient between serum and ascites albumin to determine the possible underlying cause of the ascites

# INTERPRETATION

**HIGH SAAG  
> 1.1g/dL**

- TRANSUDATE**  
- systemic disease -
- Liver cirrhosis / Portal hypertension
    - Total protein <2.5g/dL
  - Cardiac:
    - RHF / CCF
      - Total protein >2.5g/dL
    - Constrictive pericarditis
  - Renal:
    - Failure
    - Nephrotic syndrome
  - Low albumin
  - Budd-Chiari

**low SAAG  
< 1.1g/dL**

- EXUDATE**  
- local disease -
- Malignancy
  - Fungal/parasitic infections
  - Autoimmune conditions:
    - SLE / HSP
  - Infection
    - especially TB
  - Endometriosis

# CALCULATION

**SAAG** = (Albumin<sub>g/L</sub> concentration of serum) – (Albumin<sub>g/L</sub> concentration of ascitic fluid)