

# INDICATION

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

# INTERPRETATION

**HIGH SAAG**  
 $> 1.1\text{g/dL}$

## TRANSUDATE - systemic disease -

- Liver cirrhosis / Portal hypertension
  - Total protein  $<2.5\text{g/dL}$
- Cardiac:
  - RHF / CCF
    - Total protein  $>2.5\text{g/dL}$
  - Constrictive pericarditis
- Renal:
  - Failure
  - Nephrotic syndrome
- Low albumin
- Budd-Chiari

**low SAAG**  
 $< 1.1\text{g/dL}$

## 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)