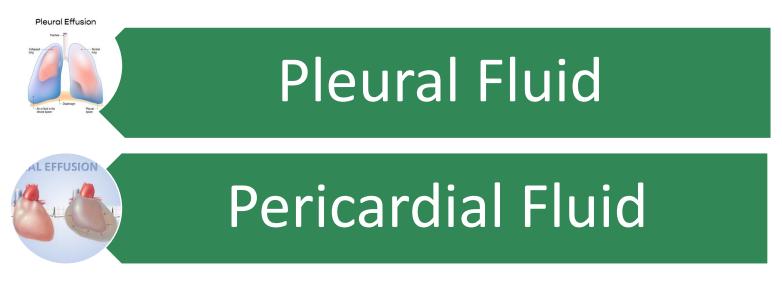


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- Potential space lined by mesothelium of the visceral and parietal pleurae.
- The pleural cavity normally contains a small amount of fluid that facilitates movement of the two membranes against each other
- "Ultra filtrate" of the plasma Closely resembles the plasma.
- Serous fluid is normally Produced at a constant rate by hydrostatic and oncotic / protein pressures in the capillaries lining the membranes
- Production occurs (🖝 parietal membrane) at the cavity wall
- Re-absorption occurs (
  visceral membrane) at the covering the organs contained within.



#### An accumulation of fluid

results from an imbalance of fluid production and reabsorption.

fluid accumulation in the pleural, pericardial, and peritoneal cavities is known as a serous effusion

Determine the reason for the accumulation of the fluid Infections Hemorrhages malignancies other disorders



- All effusions are classified as exudates or a transudates
- Classifying help clinicians to determine the disease process responsible for the accumulation of fluid



- Transudates are usually owing to systemic conditions
- Malfunctioning membranes causes fluid accumulates in the body cavities.
- Disrupt the balance between the formation and its uptake by the lymphatic system

Transudates: Increased Hydrostatic Pressure or Decreased Plasma Oncotic Pressure

Congestive heart failure Hepatic cirrhosis Hypoproteinemia (e.g., nephrotic syndrome)



- Exudates are more often associated with localized disorders
- A result of a problem with the membranes themselves.
- Produced by conditions that directly involve the membranes of the particular cavity, ex. infections, inflammation, and malignancies
- An exudate is a fluid with a high content of protein and cellular debris which has escaped from blood vessels and has been deposited in tissues.

# **Exudates: Increased Capillary Permeability or Decreased Lymphatic Resorption**

Infections

Bacterial pneumonia

Tuberculosis, other granulomatous diseases (e.g., sarcoidosis, histoplasmosis)

Viral or mycoplasma pneumonia

Neoplasms

Bronchogenic carcinoma

Metastatic carcinoma

Lymphoma

Mesothelioma (increased hyaluronate content of effusion fluid) Noninfectious inflammatory disease involving pleura

Rheumatoid disease (low pleural fluid glucose in most cases)

Systemic lupus erythematosus (LE cells are occasionally present) Pulmonary infarct (may be associated with hemorrhagic effusion)

#### Laboratory Criteria for Pleural Fluid Exudate

Pleural fluid/serum protein ratio	≥0.50
Pleural fluid/serum LD ratio	≥0.60
Pleural fluid LD	$\geq 2/3$ upper limit of normal
	serum LD

#### Light's criteria

Sensitivity 98% Specificity 80%

An effusion with none of these characteristics is classified as a transudate

• Alternative measurements have been proposed to differentiate exudates from transudates

Laboratory Criteria for Pleural Fluid Exudate			
Pleural fluid cholesterol	>45 mg/dL		
Pleural fluid/serum cholesterol ratio	≥0.30		
Serum-pleural fluid albumin gradient	≤1.2g/dL		
Pleural fluid/serum bilirubin ratio	≥0.60		

• An effusion with none of these characteristics is classified as a transudate

#### Differentiation Between Transudates and Exudates

CHARACTERISTIC / TEST	TRANSUDATE	EXUDATE
Color	Pale yellow	Any abnormal color
Clarity	Clear	Bloody cloudy, purulent, turbid
Specific gravity	< 1.015	>1.015
Glucose	Equal to serum	Over 30 mg less than serum level
Protein	<3.0 g/dL	>3.0 g/dL
Fluid / serum protein ratio	<0.5	>0.5
Fibrinogen / Spontaneous clotting	No	Possible
Fluid / serum amylase	<2.0	>2.0
Fluid / serum bilirubin ratio	<0.6	>0.6
Lactate dehydrogenase	< 60% of serum	> 60% of serum
Fluid/ serum LD ratio	<0.6	>0.6
Cell counts (total)	<300/L	>1000/L



- Transudates generally require no further workup
- Further analysis of exudates is directed toward ruling out malignancy and infection. Cytology and appropriate bacterial stains and cultures or PCR-based microbial assays are the most useful tests in this regard



## Variety of tests used to aid in determining the cause of the effusion

- Appearance
- Evaluation of **clotting ability** whether or not it will form a clot, etc.
- Cell counts and differential are performed in the hematology department
- chemistry

Protein level / Both fluid and current serum level to make comparison: fluid protein / serum protein LDH enzymes / Both fluid and current serum level to make comparison: fluid LDH/ serum LDH

- Cytology / Pathology if malignancy is suspected.
- Serology rarely done on serous fluids as blood testing is adequate

#### Pleural Effusion: Recommended Tests

#### **Routine Tests**

Gross examination Pleural fluid/serum protein ratio (used for Light's criteria) Pleural fluid/serum LDH ratio (used for Light's criteria) Examination of Romanowski-stained smear (malignant cells, LE cells)

#### **Useful Tests in Most Patients**

Stains and cultures for microorganisms Cytology

#### **Useful Tests in Selected Cases**

Pleural fluid cholesterol Pleural fluid/serum cholesterol ratio Albumin gradient pH Lactate Enzymes (ADA, amylase) Interferon-γ C-reactive protein Lipid analysis Multiplex PCR assay for bacterial, fungal, viral, and mycobacterial DNA Tumor markers Immunologic studies Tuberculostearic acid Pleural biopsy



#### **Transudates:**

- Clear
- pale yellow to straw colored
- odorless
- do not clot.
- Approximately 15% of transudates are blood tinged. A bloody pleural effusion (hematocrit >1%) suggests trauma, malignancy, or pulmonary infarction
- A pleural fluid hematocrit greater than 50% of the blood hematocrit is good evidence for a <u>hemothorax</u>



### **Exudates:**

- may grossly resemble transudates, but most show variable degrees of cloudiness or turbidity, and they often clot if not heparinized.
- A feculent odor-Anaerobic infections.
- Ammonia odour- Urinothorax
- Turbid, milky, and/ or bloody specimens should be centrifuged and the supernatant examined.

If the supernatant is clear, the turbidity is most likely due to cellular elements or debris. If the turbidity persists after centrifugation, a chylous or pseudochylous effusion is likely



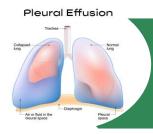
Appearance	Possible reason / condition
Pale yellow & clear	Normal
White, turbid	WBCs / infection
Bloody	RBCs/hemorrhage
Milky	Chyle – lymph & emulsified fats
Viscous	Increased hyaluronic acid / malignant mesothelialoma



• True chylous effusions are produced by leakage from the thoracic duct resulting from obstruction by lymphoma, carcinoma, or traumatic disruption.

Feature	Chylous	Pseudochylous
Onset	Sudden	Gradual
Appearance	Milky-white, or yellow to bloody	Milky or greenish, metallic sheen
Microscopic examination	Lymphocytosis	Mixed cellular reaction, cholesterol crystals
Triglycerides*†	≥110 mg/dL (≥1.24 mmol/L)	<50 mg/dL (<0.56 mol/L)
Lipoprotein electrophoresis	Chylomicrons present	Chylomicrons absent

#### Characteristic Features of Chylous and Pseudochylous Effusions



# Cell counts and differential

### Cell count

• Manual hemocytometer methods

**Pleural Fluid** 

• Automated cell counts

Leukocyte countstransudates < 1000/μL</th>RBC countsmalignancy, trauma, or pulmonary infarction >100,000/μL

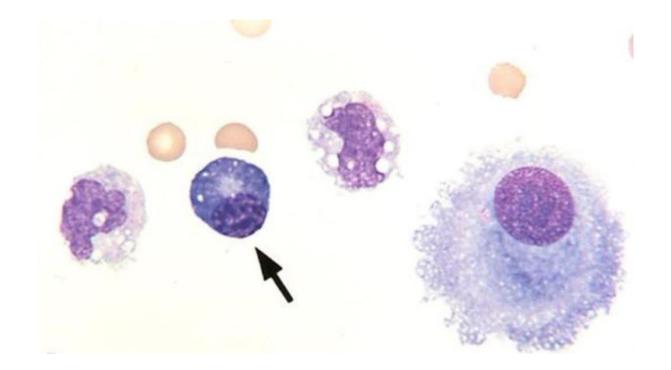
### Differential

- any cell in peripheral blood,
- mesothelial cells
- malignant cells

Romanowski stained smear prepared by cytocentrifugation

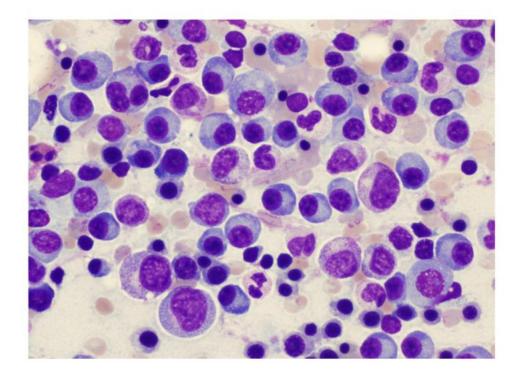
# the cells seen in serous fluids..

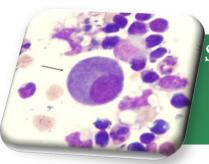
 a mesothelial cell, couple of macrophages / monocytes and a plasma cell at the arrow



# Abdominal fluid – plasma cells / multiple myeloma

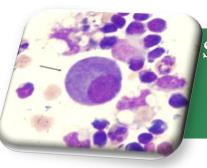
This aceties fluid is from a multiple myeloma patient and has many other examples of plasma cells



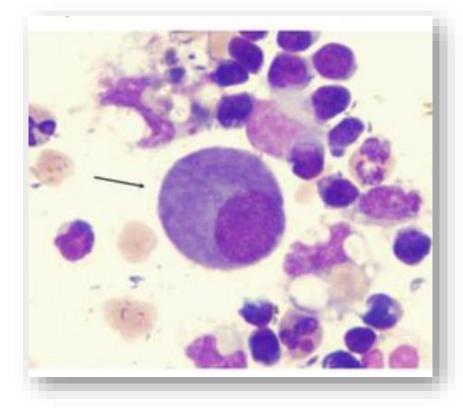


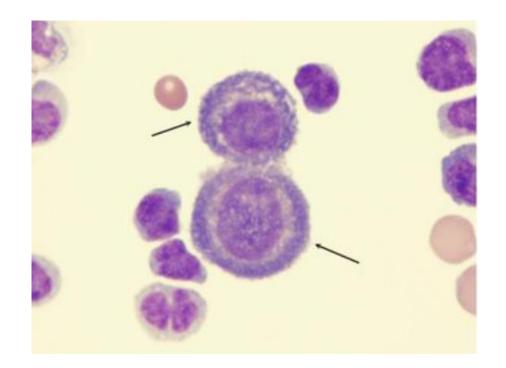
# Mesothelial cells

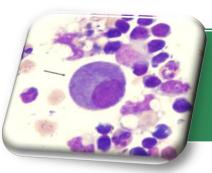
- Unique to serous fluids, originate from lining of peritoneal, pleural, and pericardial cavities.
- Large round cell with abundant blue cytoplasm and purple nucleus which may be eccentric
- sometimes described as having a "fried egg" appearance. usually are single or may be in sheets
- Nucleus round to oval & has a smooth outline, takes  $1/3 \frac{1}{2}$  of the space.



## Mesothelial cells

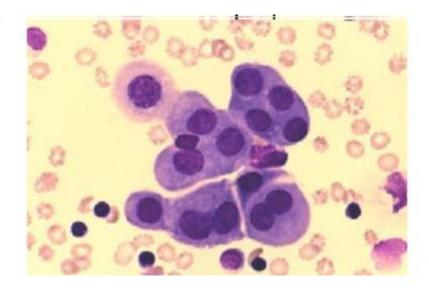




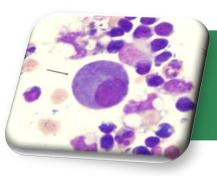


# Mesothelial cells

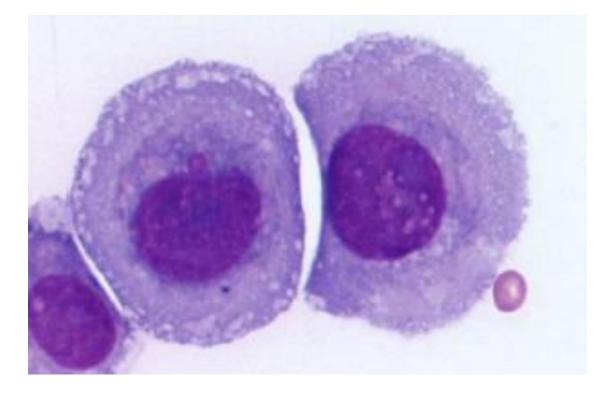
- If 'reactive' may appear in clusters
- A cluster of reactive mesos may resemble malignant cell clusters, but the mesos display "cell windows."
- have different appearances (Pleomorphic)

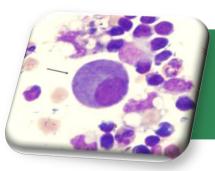


Reactive mesothelial cells

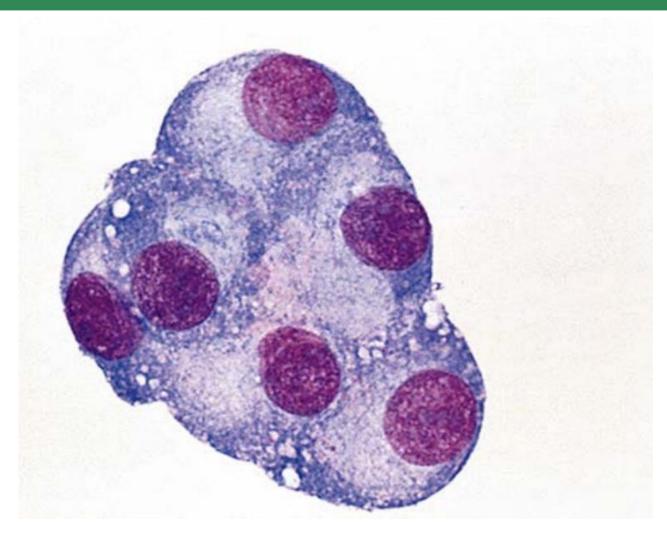


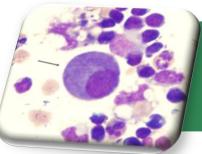
## Mesothelial cells





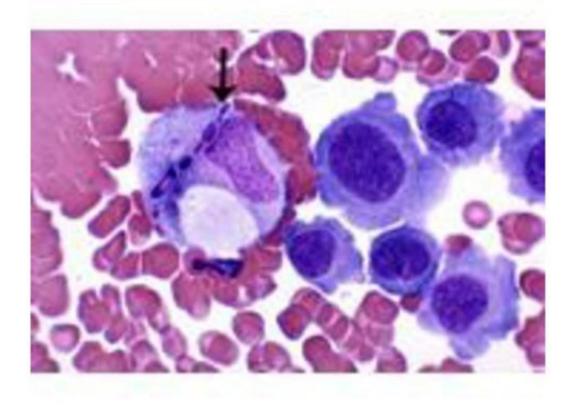
## Mesothelial cells





#### Serous Body Fluids Mesothelial cells

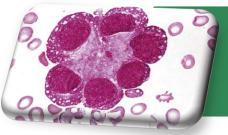
Macrophage engulfed Candidia species in a pleural fluid, mesothelial cells.





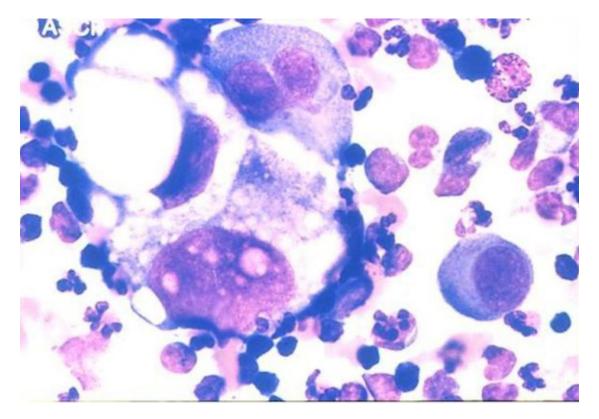
# Malignant cells

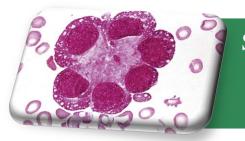
- A frequent concern in any serous fluid due to possibility of cancer of any organ and/or metastasis.
- Cells have irregular size, shape, and staining characteristics of nucleus and cytoplasm. clusters of cells. May be vacuolated.
- There is great variability in the appearance of malignant cells
- Always send suspicious cells to cytology / pathology



# Malignant cells

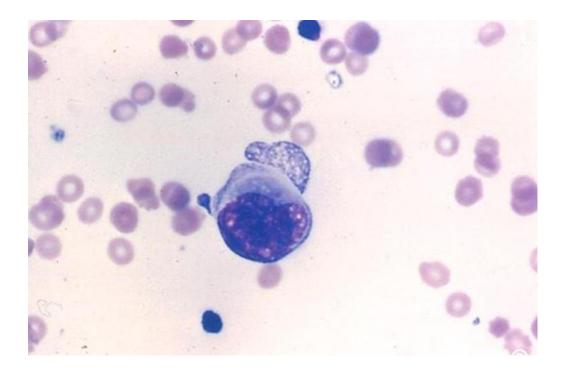
#### Peritoneal fluid, malignancy





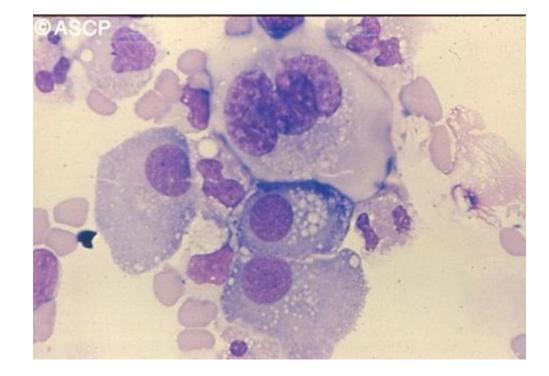
## Malignant cells

#### Pleural fluid 42 year old, breast cancer



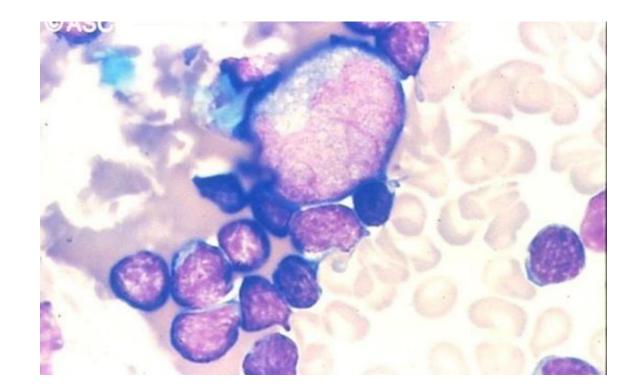


# Malignant cells





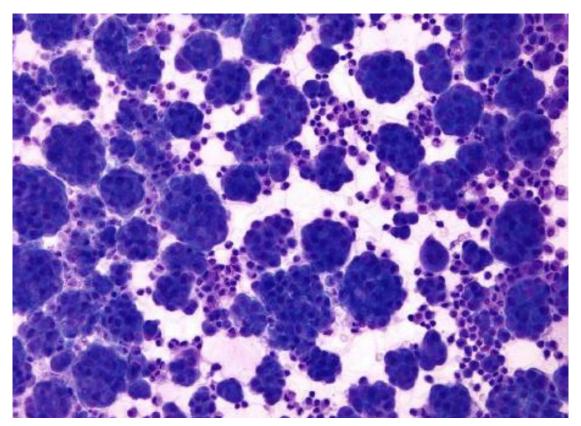
• Pleural effusion fluid – malignant tumor on spinal cord





# Malignant cells

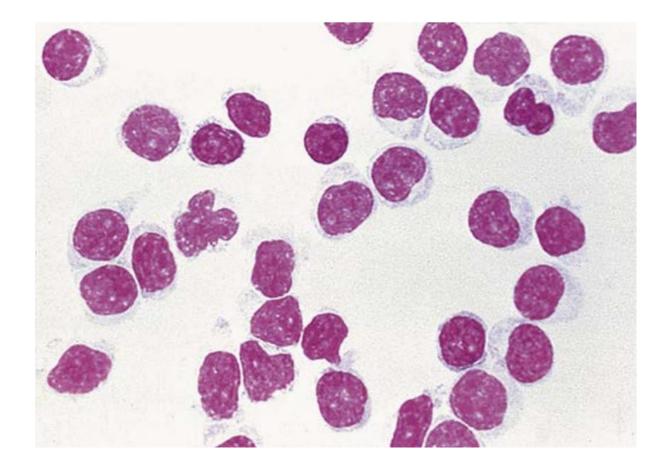
• Malignant Mesothelioma

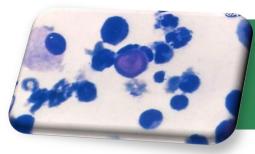




# Malignant cells

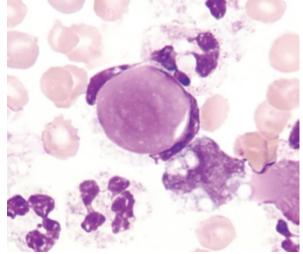
 Low-grade non-Hodgkin lymphoma and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) may be difficult to distinguish from benign lymphocyte-rich serous effusion





## LE cells

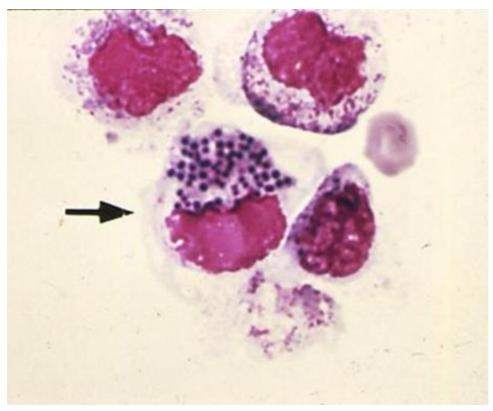
- Seen in patients with Systemic Lupus Erythmatosis (SLE) a systemic disease in which an autoantibody attacks the patients organs and body systems
- LE cell is a neutrophil that has engulfed a homogeneous mass of purple staining nuclear material

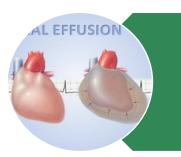




Serous Body Fluids (Pericardial fluid) Intracellular Bacteria

#### • At the arrow is a cell with obvious intracellular bacteria





# **Pericardial Fluid**

- From 10 to 50 mL of fluid is normally present in the pericardial space
- Produced by a transudative process similar to pleural fluid.
- Pericardial effusions are most often caused by viral infection; enterovirus is the most common etiologic agent

#### **Causes of Pericardial Effusions**

Idiopathic (most often viral) Infection **Bacteria Tuberculosis** Fungi Viruses AIDS-related (usually viral) Neoplasm Metastatic carcinoma Lymphoma Drugs Hydralazine Procainamide Phenytoin Renal failure Hemorrhage Trauma Anticoagulant therapy Leakage of aortic aneurysm Autoimmune disorders Hypothyroidism **Rheumatoid arthritis** Systemic lupus erythematosus Inflammatory bowel disease Wegener's granulomatosis Acute myocardial infarction Radiation therapy



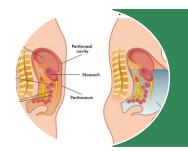
- Normal pericardial fluid is pale yellow and clear. Large effusions (>350 mL)
- are most often caused by malignancy or uremia, or they may be idiopathic.
- Infection or malignancy typically produces turbid effusions, whereas effusions due to uremia are usually clear and straw colored
- several other disorders may produce hemorrhagic effusions



- Blood-like fluid obtained by pericardiocentesis might represent a hemorrhagic effusion or inadvertent aspiration of blood from the heart
- Blood obtained from the heart chamber will have a **hematocrit comparable with that of peripheral blood**, and blood gas analysis yields results similar to venous or arterial blood. In contrast, the **hematocrit of a hemorrhagic** effusion is usually **lower than that of peripheral blood**.
- Blood from a cardiac puncture clots, but a hemorrhagic effusion usually does not



- The hematocrit and RBC count document the presence of a hemorrhagic effusion but are of limited value for differential diagnosis.
- Total leukocyte counts over 10,000/ $\mu$ L suggest bacterial, tuberculous, or malignant pericarditis
- Examination of a stained smear should always be performed to evaluate for atypical or malignant cells
- Metastatic carcinomas of the lung and breast are most frequently observed in malignant pericardial effusion.



# Peritoneal fluid

- Ascites is the pathologic accumulation of excess fluid in the peritoneal cavity.
- Up to 50 mL of fluid is normally present in this mesothelial-lined space.
- As with pleural and pericardial fluids, it is produced as an ultrafiltrate of plasma dependent on vascular permeability and on hydrostatic and oncotic pressure.

#### **Causes of Peritoneal Effusions**

#### Transudates: Increased Hydrostatic Pressure or Decreased Plasma Oncotic Pressure

Congestive heart failure Hepatic cirrhosis Hypoproteinemia (e.g., nephrotic syndrome)

#### **Exudates: Increased Capillary Permeability or Decreased Lymphatic Resorption**

Infections

Primary bacterial peritonitis

Secondary bacterial peritonitis (e.g., appendicitis, bowel rupture) Tuberculosis

Neoplasms

Hepatoma

Lymphoma

Mesothelioma

Metastatic carcinoma

Ovarian carcinoma

Prostate cancer

Colonic adenocarcinoma

Pancreatic carcinoma

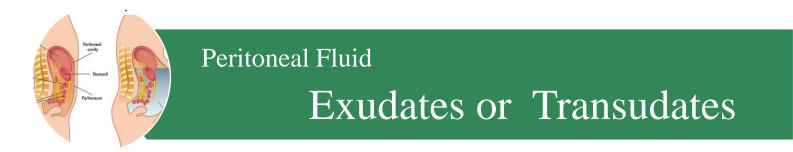
Trauma

Pancreatitis

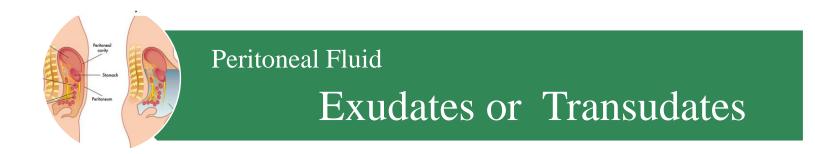
Bile peritonitis (e.g., ruptured gallbladder)

#### **Chylous Effusion**

Damage to or obstruction of thoracic duct (e.g., trauma, lymphoma, carcinoma, tuberculosis and other granulomas [e.g., sarcoidosis, histoplasmosis], parasitic infestation)



- The laboratory criteria for classifying ascitic fluid as a transudate or an exudate are not as well defined as they are for pleural and pericardial fluids.
- The serum-ascites albumin gradient (SAAG), defined as the serum albumin concentration minus the ascitic fluid albumin concentration, is widely considered to be the most reliable method to differentiate peritoneal transudates from exudates



• Ascites caused by portal hypertension has a gradient of at least 1.1 g/dL transudate), whereas ascites produced by other causes has a gradient less than 1.1 g/dL (exudate)

• An ascitic fluid/serum bilirubin ratio of 0.6 or greater is also significantly associated with exudate



- Whereas transudates are generally pale yellow and clear, exudates are cloudy or turbid because of the presence of leukocytes, tumor cells, or increased protein levels.
- The presence of food particles, foreign material, or green-yellow bile staining in a DPL specimen suggests perforation of the gastrointestinal or biliary tract.
- Acute pancreatitis and cholecystitis may also cause greenish discoloration



- The total leukocyte count is useful in distinguishing ascites due to uncomplicated cirrhosis from spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP), , which is caused by migration of bacteria from the intestine into the ascitic fluid
- Approximately 90% of patients with SBP will have leukocyte counts greater than  $500/\mu$ L, more than 50% of which are neutrophils
- The ascitic fluid total neutrophil count is the preferred method for the diagnosis of SBP. Cutoff values of 250 and 500 neutrophils/ $\mu$ L have been recommended