Approach to Diagnosis of Pleural Effusion

This practice algorithm has been specifically developed for MD Anderson using a multidisciplinary approach and taking into consideration circumstances particular to MD Anderson, including the following: MD Anderson’s specific patient population; MD Anderson’s services and structure; and MD Anderson’s clinical information. Moreover, this algorithm is not intended to replace the independent medical or professional judgment of physicians or other healthcare providers.

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1 If pleural effusion is blood-tinged or serosanguinous, add hematocrit and triglycerides. If pleural fluid is milky or there is clinical suspicion of chylothorax, add triglycerides.

2 If clinically indicated.
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SUGGESTED READINGS


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DEVELOPMENT CREDITS

This practice consensus statement is based on majority opinion of the Pleural Work Group experts at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center for the patient population. These experts included:

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