Letter to Editor

Pleural Fluid Cholesterol, Transudates, and Exudates: Correspondence

Sir,

We would like to share ideas on “Pleural fluid cholesterol: A promising marker to differentiate transudates and exudates.”[1] Rustogi et al. concluded that “pfCHOL is a less complex, cost-effective, reliable diagnostic marker and is as good as the Light’s criteria to differentiate transudates and exudates.”[1]

We agree that pfCHOL might be helpful for the diagnosis of effusion. The observation in the present work repeatedly confirms the concept in the previous publication.[2] There are some laboratory medicine concerns. First, the technique for analyzing cholesterol in pleural fluid is still nonstandard. Applying CHOD-PAP method, which is used for serum sample analysis, might be possible, but there must be a standard evaluation of technique (diagnostic sensitivity, interference, reference value, etc.). Effusion cholesterol level is also affected by serum level, which is related to intake. Hence, a measurement of ratio compared to serum is needed.[3]

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Conflicts of interest
There are no conflicts of interest.

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References