



Light's Criteria	Transudate (all)	Exudate (1 or more)
LDH (pleural)	< 2/3 ULN	≥ 2/3 ULN
LDH _{Eff} / LDH _{Ser}	< 0.6	≥ 0.6
TProt _{Eff} / TProt _{Ser}	< 0.5	≥ 0.5

Characterizing and Treating Paraneumonic Effusions

	Uncomplicated Paraneumonic	Complicated Paraneumonic	Empyema
Etiology	Sterile exudate in pleural space	Bacterial invasion of pleural space	Bacterial colonization of pleural space
Pleural Fluid	pH ≥ 7.2 Glucose ≥ 60 WBC ≤ 50,000	pH < 7.2 or Glucose < 40-60* or WBC > 50,000 or (+) GS & Cx*	Frankly Purulent fluid (+) GS & Cx*
Tx	Antibiotics	Antibiotics + Drainage	

*Slight variations in definitions depending on source, however, these changes do not change the management.