

# Transudate Vs Exudate

# Definition

- **Transudate:** An **extracellular** fluid, with a **low protein** content, that has effused from the blood circulation out to the interstitial space. Caused by systemic factors, usually by increased **blood pressure**.

# Definition

- **Exudate:** An **extracellular** fluid, with a **high protein** content, that has effused from the blood circulation out to the **interstitial space** (usually in an area of inflammation). Caused by local factors that **increase permeability** of the blood vessels.

# Characteristics of Exudate

Any of the following:

- Pleural Fluid (PF) / Serum - Protein  $> 0.5$
- PF / Serum - LDH  $> 0.6$
- PF LDH  $> 2/3$  upper normal serum limit

If these are not met, the fluid is a Transudate

# Differential Diagnosis

## Exudate:

- Bacterial pneumonia
- Malignancy
- Viral infection
- Pulmonary embolism

## Transudate:

- Left ventricular heart failure
- Cirrhosis
- Nephrosis