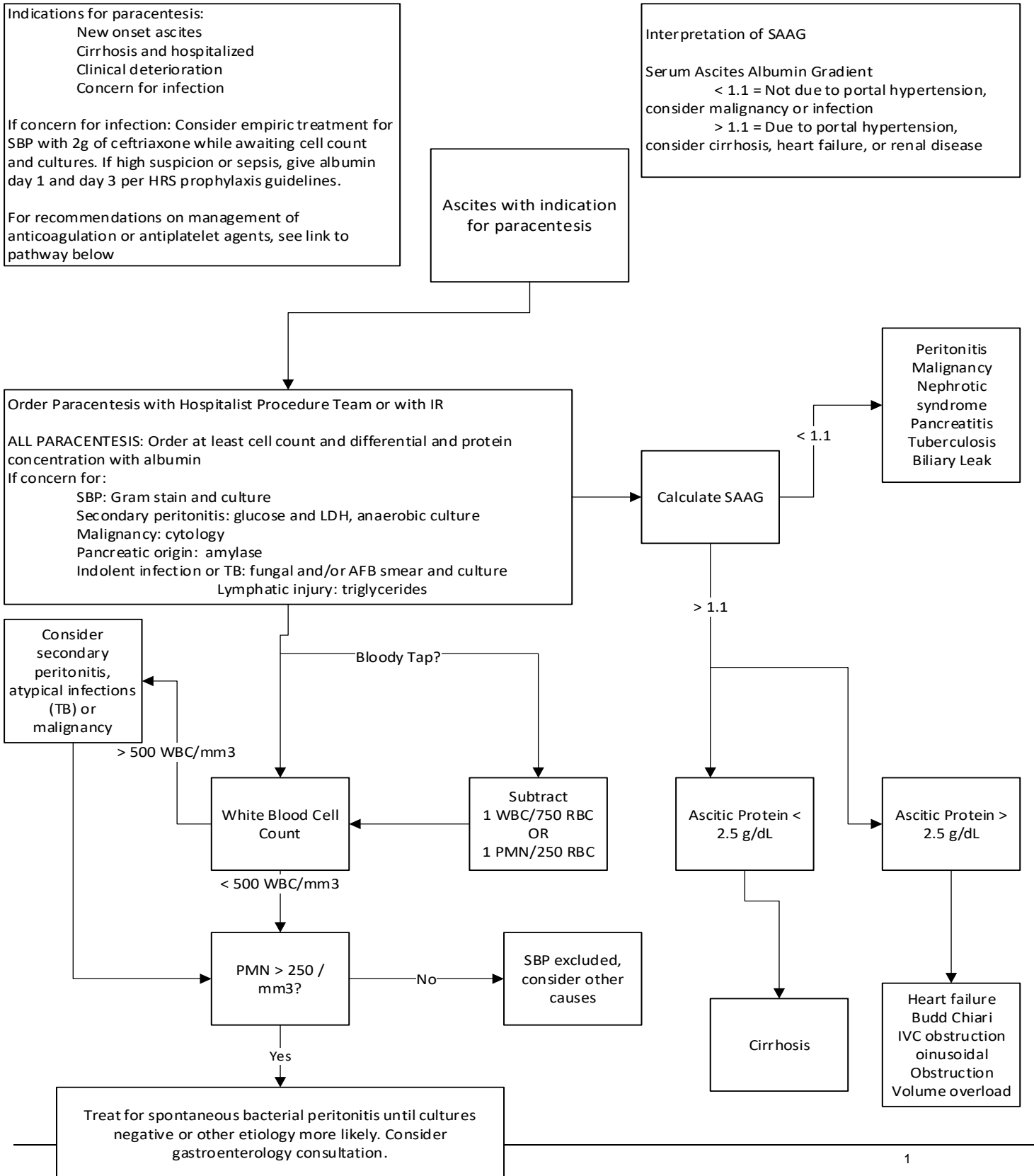


Diagnostic Approach to Ascites – Paracentesis, Inpatient Hospitalist-performed

Clinical Standardization - Updated: February 8, 2023

Clinical Algorithm: Diagnostic Approach to Ascites - Paracentesis



Clinical Pathway Summary

CLINICAL PATHWAY NAME: Diagnostic Approach to Ascites – Paracentesis, Inpatient Hospitalist-performed

PATIENT POPULATION AND DIAGNOSIS:

- Inpatient Adults
- Diagnosis of Ascites with indications for paracentesis:
 - New onset ascites
 - Cirrhosis and hospitalized
 - Clinical deterioration
 - Concern for infection

APPLICABLE TO: Butterworth Hospital

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

- Algorithms and guidelines for Hospitalist-performed procedures, to standardize clinical pathways and communicate best practices
- [Anticoagulation guidelines related to Paracentesis and Thoracentesis procedures](#)

OPTIMIZED EPIC ELEMENTS (if applicable): Orders: Paracentesis Performed by Hospitalist, Thoracentesis Performed by Hospitalist

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: 12/28/2022

LAST REVISED: 2/8/2023

Clinical Pathways Clinical Approach

TREATMENT AND MANAGEMENT:

- All patients with new-onset ascites should undergo diagnostic paracentesis for evaluation
- In patients with cirrhosis, ascitic fluid should be sampled with each hospitalization, especially in the setting of severe illness, to rule out SBP
- The serum ascites albumin gradient (SAAG) is the primary method by which ascites due to portal hypertension can be differentiated from ascites due to intraperitoneal causes
- A cell count and differential and ascitic fluid culture should be obtained to evaluate for infection in nearly all cases

Pathway Information

OWNERS(S): Dr. Jeremy Gentile, Dr. Cheryl Peavler

CONTRIBUTOR(S): Ascites – Hannah Bray and Andrew Shriener

EXPERT IMPROVEMENT TEAM (EIT): Hospitalist Quality EIT

CLINICAL PRACTICE COUNCIL (CPC): Acute Health CPC

CPC APPROVAL DATE: 2/7/2023

OTHER TEAM(S) IMPACTED: ED, Specialty Health

References:

Aithal GP, Palaniyappan N, China L, Härmälä S, Macken L, Ryan JM, Wilkes EA, Moore K, Leithead JA, Hayes PC, O'Brien AJ, Verma S. Guidelines on the management of ascites in cirrhosis. *Gut*. 2021 Jan;70(1):9-29. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2020-321790. Epub 2020 Oct 16. PMID: 33067334; PMCID: PMC7788190.

Patel YA, Muir AJ. Evaluation of New-Onset Ascites. *JAMA*. 2016 Jul 19;316(3):340-1. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.7600. PMID: 27434446; PMCID: PMC5144153.