

Summary of analytical factors in the analysis of body fluids



Fluid	Common Tests	Pre-analytical Factors	Analytical Factors	Post-analytical Factors	Interpretative Notes
Amniotic Fluid	Bilirubin	Protect from light	Centrifuge before analysis	Use Liley or Queenan chart to interpret absorbances	Gestation date required
CSF	Glucose	Preserve glucose			
	Protein			Note red cell count	
	Bilirubin	Protect bilirubin from light			
Pericardial Fluid	Protein LDH				Light's Criteria
Peritoneal / Ascitic Fluid	Protein Albumin LDH Amylase Triglyceride Haematology Microbiology	Microbiological tests should be performed first before distributing to other laboratories. Blood and fluid samples should be taken concurrently	Fluid and blood albumin measured to calculate SAAG		Light's Criteria Blood should also be analysed for liver function tests (including Albumin, total protein), renal function tests, and amylase
Pleural Fluid	Protein LDH				Light's Criteria Measure plasma / serum LDH and Protein simultaneously
	Glucose	Preserve glucose			
	pH	As soon as fluid is collected, take a sample into 'blood gas' tube and expel all air	Analyse anaerobically as blood gas		
Saliva	Free hormones Drugs	Use commercial collecting device	Freeze to remove viscosity	Dehydration or oral contamination may invalidate results	Cut offs for dynamic function tests need to be established
Seminal Fluid	Enzymes	Sample must be received within 2 hours of collection			
Sweat	Chloride	Infants should be more than 2 weeks and 3kg in weight Secretion rate of sweat not less than 1g/m ² /min required	Elute sweat from filter paper for at least 40 minutes		Sodium should not be interpreted without chloride