

Nursing Instructions

- Must Ask if patient is allergic or not to latex
- Obtain Consent for thoracentesis:

Equipment

- Thoracentesis tray (includes 17gauge x 6-inch needle with catheter, 25 gauge x 5/8-inch skin infiltration needle, 21 gauge x 1.5-inch deep infiltration needle, 50ml syringe, two-way valve, drainage bag, fenestrated drape, lidocaine.)
- Sterile gloves
 - Latex Nonlatex size _____
- Betadine
- Mask and gown
- Six pack of Sterile towels
- One package of 4X4 Sterile gauze pads
- Adhesive tape
- Pulse ox monitor

Ultrasound at the bedside (indicated if difficulty in obtaining pleural fluid or if the effusion is small)

- Notify Ultrasound
- Time of procedure _____

Laboratory tests

A) Pre-procedure Tests

- Coagulation Profile Other _____

B) Recommended Pleural Fluid Analysis

Routine Chemistries

- Pleural fluid LDH
- Pleural fluid protein
- Pleural fluid pH
- Pleural fluid glucose

Microbiology / Pleural fluid cultures

- Aerobic Cultures Anaerobic Cultures Fungal Culture AFB Culture
- Pleural fluid gram stain

Recommended if clinically warranted / Pleural Fluid Analysis

- Pleural fluid cholesterol
- Pleural fluid amylase
- Pleural fluid nucleated cells
- Pleural fluid eosinophilia
- Pleural fluid mesothelial cells
- Pleural fluid cytology

C) Recommended Blood tests

- Serum LDH
- Comprehensive metabolic Panel
- CBC

Recommended if clinically warranted

- Serum amylase
- Others _____

Physician Signature

Date

Post Thoracentesis Orders

- Chest x-ray
 - Stat
 - Within 4 hours
 - Routine

Recommended only if one or more of the following criteria are met:

- history of previous chest irradiation
- more than one needle pass required during the procedure
- air aspirated during the procedure, symptoms of Pneumothorax present
- suspicion of Pneumothorax
- other indications for chest radiograph

Nursing Instructions (Post procedure)

- Monitor vital signs and respiratory status and pulse ox:
- Every 15 min x 2, then 30min X 2, then per routine
- Assess dressing (leave it on for 24 hours)

Physician Signature

Date