

# What Is the Incidence and Diagnostic Profile Associated With Discordant Pleural Fluid Biochemistry?

## STUDY DESIGN

**Retrospective analysis**  
of pleural fluid samples from  
United Kingdom

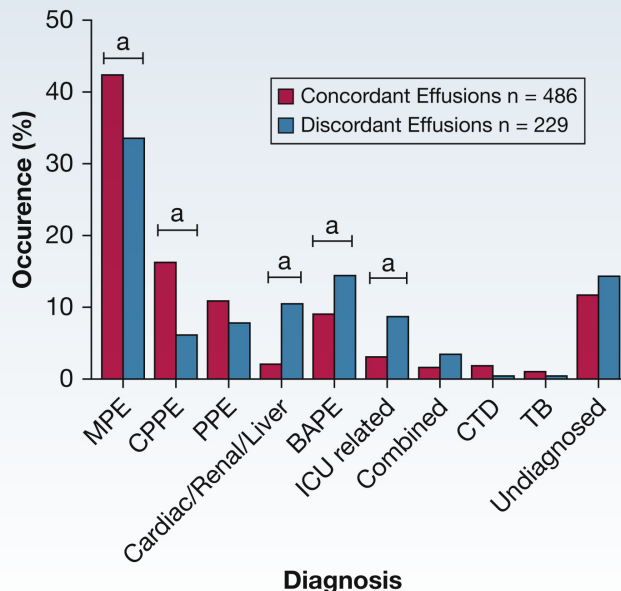
Exudates were subdivided into:

**Concordant**

**Discordant**

- $\downarrow$  protein +  $\uparrow$  lactate dehydrogenase (LDH)
- $\uparrow$  protein +  $\downarrow$  LDH

## RESULTS



Out of 715 exudates,  
**32% (229) were discordant**

- 85  $\downarrow$  protein +  $\uparrow$  LDH
- 144  $\uparrow$  protein +  $\downarrow$  LDH

**Diagnoses more common with discordant**

- Fluid overload: 10% vs 2%
- Benign asbestos-related pleural effusion (BAPE): 14% vs 9%
- ICU-associated effusion: 9% vs 3%

**Diagnoses less common with discordant**

- Pleural infection: 6% vs 16%
- Malignant pleural effusion (MPE): 34% vs 42%

The findings of this study show that discordant pleural effusions are common and represent a biologically distinct entity with different diagnostic patterns compared with concordant effusions, indicating that clinicians should assess for discordance early and tailor investigations accordingly.