

*To the Editor:* Although he stresses the usefulness of the serum-ascites albumin gradient, Runyon claims that measurement of fibronectin or cholesterol in ascitic fluid is not useful for the differential diagnosis of ascites. We have a different view. A test for fibronectin<sup>1</sup> or cholesterol<sup>2</sup> in ascitic fluid can accurately discriminate between malignant and nonmalignant ascites and is superior to protein measurement for this purpose. The serum-ascites albumin gradient may be inferior to ascitic-fluid cholesterol measurement in the differential diagnosis of ascites<sup>3,4,5</sup>. For these reasons, we advocate the measurement of ascitic-fluid cholesterol.

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## References

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