# Guidelines on the management of ascites in cirrhosis.

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**British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) | British Association for the Study of the Liver (BASL)**

*Aithal GP, Palaniyappan N, China L, et al. Guidelines on the management of ascites in cirrhosis. Gut. 2021 Jan;70(1):9-29. [284 references]* PubMed

View Original Guideline

## Overview

### Guideline Objective

To review and summarise the evidence that guides clinical diagnosis and management of ascites in patients with cirrhosis

### Patient Population

Patients with cirrhosis and ascites

## Recommendations

### Recommendation Statements

Major interventions covered in this guideline include:

- Guidance on diagnostic paracentesis

- Use of antibiotic therapy for prevention and treatment of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP)
- Use of diuretics and restriction of dietary salt
- Therapeutic interventions, including large volume paracentesis (LVP), human albumin solution (HAS), transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic stent shunt (TIPSS), non-selective beta-blockers, and automated low-flow ascites pump (ALFApump)
- Considerations for patients with hepatic hydrothorax or umbilical hernia
- Role of palliative care

**Note**: Full recommendation statements have not been provided because this guideline does not meet EGT's systematic review of the evidence criteria. Refer to the original guideline for more information.

## Evidence Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

## Recommendation Rating Scheme

Refer to the original guideline documentation for more information.

# Related Content

## Supporting Documents

No supporting documents available.

## Implementation Tools

- The Original Guideline includes the following algorithms:
    - Figure 1. The Pathogenesis of Ascites in Cirrhosis (p. 12)

- Figure 3. Approach to the Use of Diuretics in the Management of Ascites in Patients with Cirrhosis (p. 17)

## Patient Education

No patient education materials available.

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