Hypoalbuminemia

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Following are differential diagnoses, listed in order of likelihood, for patients presented with hypoalbuminemia.

- Increased loss
  - Protein-losing nephropathy (eg, glomerulonephritis, Lyme nephritis)
  - Protein-losing enteropathy (eg, inflammatory bowel disease, lymphangiectasia)
- Decreased production
  - Acute phase reaction (albumin is a negative acute phase protein)
  - Liver dysfunction/failure
  - Secondary to hyperglobulinemia (ie, albumin is downregulated due to increased oncotic pressure from increased globulins)
- Starvation (ie, chronic, severe malnutrition)
- Excessive fluids (dilutional effect)
- Hypoadrenocorticism
- Sequestration (eg, secondary to loss in protein-rich effusions), third-spacing
- Hemophagocytic histiocytic sarcoma
- Increased catabolism (poorly characterized)

References


