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# *Sign of the «reverse halo» or sign of the «atoll»*

## Signo del «halo inverso» o signo del «atolón»

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The «reversed halo» sign or «atoll» sign is a CT term describing a central area of ground-glass opacity surrounded by a complete or partial ring of consolidation.[1] It was included in the 2008 Fleischner Society glossary[2] as the reversed halo sign, although the first descriptions date back to 1996 in 2 patients with organizing pneumonia.[3] Later, in 1999, the same CT findings were described using the term atoll sign,[4] also in 2 patients with organizing pneumonia. Several reports subsequently demonstrated that this sign is present in diseases other than organizing pneumonia,[5] including pulmonary fungal infections, particularly invasive forms,[6] pulmonary tuberculosis, pulmonary infarction, granulomatous and nongranulomatous diseases, and lung cancer. Although the most recent edition of the Fleischner Society glossary uses the term atoll sign, it lists both descriptive terms as synonyms.[1] The term reversed halo sign is recommended to standardize keywords in literature searches and to avoid overlooking publications of high academic value.[7]



**Figure 1.** Reversed halo sign or atoll sign. Magnified axial CT image showing a central area (*) of ground-glass opacity surrounded by a higher-attenuation halo of consolidation (→) (source: archives of the Imaging Department, INER).

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## Conflicts of interest

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## Ethical considerations

**Protection of humans and animals.** The authors declare that the procedures followed complied with the ethical standards of the responsible human experimentation committee (or animal experimentation committee, as applicable), in accordance with the World Medical Association and the Declaration of Helsinki. The procedures were approved by the institution's Ethics Committee.

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