

Bilateral renal halo sign in acute pancreatitis

A 29-year-old man with a history of alcohol misuse presented with acute abdominal pain, vomiting, and a tense and tender abdomen. Serum amylase and lipase levels were elevated, and acute pancreatitis was diagnosed. Computed tomography revealed a bilateral renal halo sign (Figure) and oedema of the pancreas with multiple fluid collections. The halo appears as ground-glass attenuation on imaging, due to enhancement of the perirenal fat from the retroperitoneal collection of pancreatic exudates.¹ Bilateral perirenal fluid collections are rare² and suggest pancreatitis.¹

Ganesh Athappan, Resident^{1,2}

Venkatesh K Ariyamuthu, Resident³

Virusankulam K Rajamani, Professor of Medicine³

1 Internal Medicine, Caritas St Elizabeth Medical Center, Boston, Mass, USA.

2 Tufts School of Medicine, Tufts University, Boston, Mass, USA.

3 Madras Medical College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.

ganeshathappan@gmail.com

1 Susman N, Hammerman AM, Cohen E. The renal halo sign in pancreatitis. *Radiology* 1982; 142: 323-327.

2 Mortelé KJ, Mergo PJ, Taylor HM, et al. Renal and perirenal space involvement in acute pancreatitis: spiral CT findings. *Abdom Imaging* 2000; 25: 272-278. □

