GROUND GLASS ON THE CHEST CT


What does “ground glass” mean?
- Focal or diffuse opacification of the lung
- Does not obscure vascular structures
- No air bronchograms
- Sort of like a “veil” across the lung parenchyma

What acute disease states create “ground glass” appearance on chest CT?
- Pneumocystis pneumonia (PCP)
- Viral pneumonias
- Acute interstitial pneumonia
- Acute eosinophilic pneumonia
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- Early interstitial lung disease

What chronic disease states create “ground glass” appearance on chest CT?
- Hypersensitivity pneumonitis
- Interstitial lung diseases (NSIP, DIP)
- Bronchoalveolar carcinoma
- Alveolar proteinosis
- Sarcoidosis

The appearance of “ground glass” on the chest CT is a pretty good indication of PCP in immunocompromised patients. Is there anything else that can cause ground glass in these patients?
- Drug reactions
- Pulmonary hemorrhage
- Lymphoma