



Patient Information - Macular Pucker

What Exactly is a Macular Pucker (or Epiretinal Membrane)?

A macular pucker or epiretinal membrane is wrinkling over the macula, which is the central area of vision.

What are the Symptoms of a Macular Pucker?

The most common symptom of a macular pucker is distorted vision where straight lines like doorways or stop signs often appear wavy. This distortion can be mild, moderate or severe.

What are the Causes of Macular Pucker?

There are many conditions that may cause a macular pucker:

1. A torn or detached retina.
2. Inflammation within the eye.
3. Injury to the eye.
4. Problems with the retinal blood vessels.
5. Vitreous detachment, which occurs when the gel inside the eye ages and pulls on the retinal surface.

Can I Do Something to Prevent Macular Pucker?

There are no preventative measures you can take to prevent a macular pucker from occurring.

How is One Diagnosed with Macular Pucker?

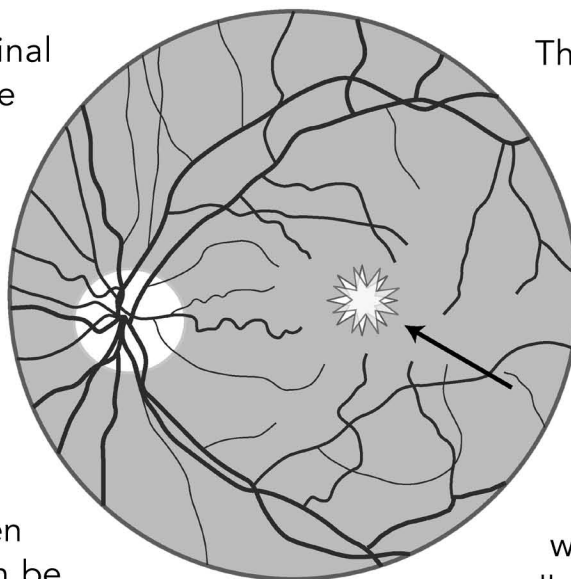
A complete ophthalmologic examination along with a photographic test called a fluorescein angiogram (FA) may be necessary to determine the extent of the damage to the macula from the macular pucker.

What is the Treatment for a Macular Pucker?

If the symptoms of distortion and decreased vision are mild, no treatment is necessary. Eye drops, medications and laser surgery will not improve the vision. Sometimes changing glasses by improving the magnification can help.

The only treatment for worsening vision is vitrectomy surgery where tiny instruments are used to remove the wrinkling in the

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What is the Treatment for a Macular Pucker? (continued)

retina. Usually the macula will flatten and the symptoms slowly lessen. Vision does not generally return all the way to normal, but in most cases, it does improve.

Surgery is not necessary for everyone who has a macular pucker. Often, this is an elective procedure and if patients are not bothered by symptoms, typically they are simply examined annually.

What are the Potential Complications with Macular Pucker Surgery?

For macular pucker surgery, complications can include infection, bleeding, retinal detachment, recurrence of the macular pucker, and acceleration of cataracts.



Photograph of a macular pucker showing damage to the retinal tissue. Eyesight may become blurred or distorted as a result of scar tissue forming and/or wrinkling of the retina.

For more information, about macular pucker or other diseases of the eye, please visit our website at tri-stl.com.

To make an appointment at one of our convenient locations, call: 314-367-1181 or 800-888-0011.

THE RETINA INSTITUTE

