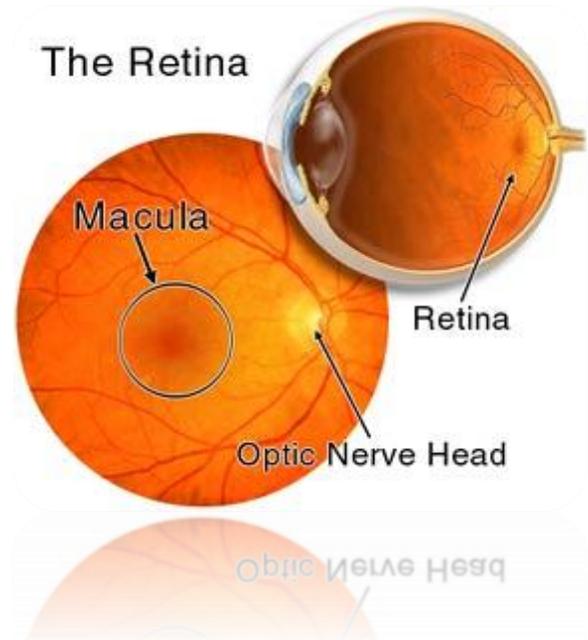


Macular Pucker

What is a macula?

- The light-sensing layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye is called the *retina*.
- The *macula* is the specialised area of the retina responsible for producing clear and detailed vision.
- The macula normally lies flat against the back of the eye, similar to the film lining the back of a camera.
- If your macula is damaged your central vision will be blurred.

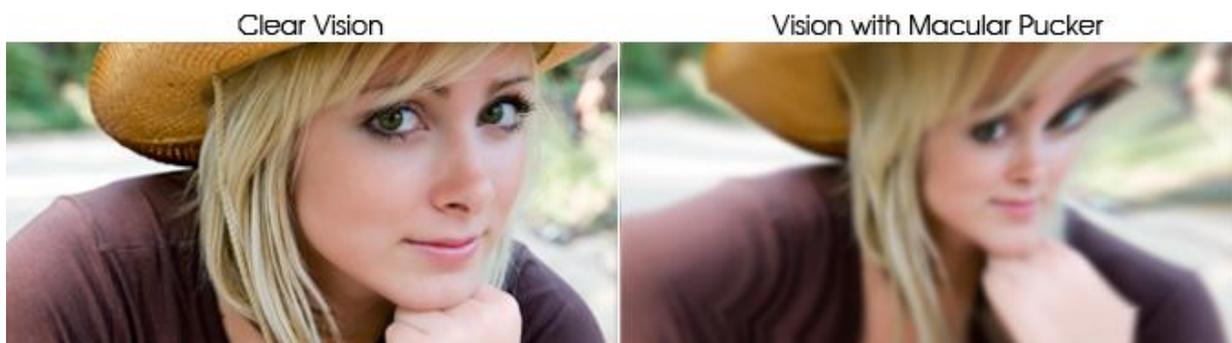


What is macular pucker?

- Macula pucker is simply where the macula becomes wrinkled.
- This condition is also known as cellophane maculopathy or premacular fibrosis.

What are the symptoms of macular pucker?

- Vision becomes blurred and distorted similar to the picture from your camera with a wrinkled film.



- Straight lines, like doorways and power poles, often appear wavy.
- Loss of vision can vary between being barely noticeable to very severe.
- One or both eyes may be involved but for most people vision remains stable without getting progressively worse.

What causes macular pucker?

- A thin transparent membrane grows over the macula.
- It contracts and shrinks thus wrinkling the macula.
- Eye conditions that may be associated with macular pucker include:
 - Vitreous detachment (ageing of the vitreous gel inside the eye)
 - Torn or detached retina
 - Inflammation inside the eye
 - Severe injury to the eye
 - Retinal blood vessel disorders
- Macular pucker is not usually related to any non-eye medical condition.

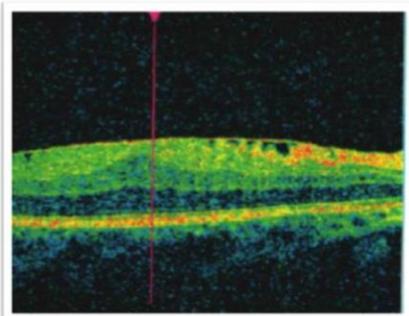
How do we test for macular pucker?

- Your eye specialist can diagnose macular pucker by examining your retina.
- We will do an Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) scan which will scan your retina in six cross-sections.
- The OCT scan will show high resolution vertical cross-sections of the retina.
- The OCT scanner does this by passing a particular wavelength of light over the macula and records the relative reflectance of the different layers in the retina.

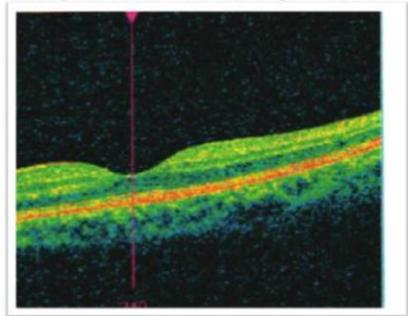


OCT scan of Epiretinal Membrane

Before vitrectomy surgery. The macula is swollen due to scar tissue on the surface of the macula. The patient has distortion of vision due to the ERM



1 week after vitrectomy surgery, the ERM has been removed and the macula has returned to the normal shape and the patients vision has improved



How is macular pucker treated?

- Treatment is not necessary if symptoms are mild.
 - Eye drops, medicines or laser do not improve vision loss from macular pucker.
 - Vitrectomy surgery is the only treatment that will remove the macular pucker.
 - During vitrectomy surgery the eye specialist will use delicate forceps to remove the membrane which is wrinkling the macula.
-
- Usually the macula flattens out and symptoms slowly improve.
 - Surgery, while not necessary for everyone who has macular pucker, will generally decrease the amount of distortion in the central vision.
 - Vision generally improves but may not restore all the way back to normal.
 - The improvement in vision can take months as the retina slowly relaxes after
 - Many people experiencing mildly-blurred vision are not bothered enough to want or need surgery.
 - You should consider surgery if your blurred vision is interfering with your daily activities and quality of life.

