

# Macular Pucker

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This material will help you understand macular pucker and how it is treated.

## **What is a macular pucker?**

The macula is the central part of the retina that is responsible for your most precise vision. It allows you to read small print and thread needles. The retina is like the film of the eye. It is responsible for capturing images to send to the brain. When the macula is wrinkled in macular pucker, the “film” does not lie flat and the picture becomes blurred. A macular pucker is also known as an epiretinal membrane.

## **What causes macular puckers?**

Aging causes the gel-like substance that fills the back of your eye (the vitreous gel) to liquefy and pull away from the retina. When the gel separates from the retina, it can leave a few cells behind. These cells can grow into scar tissue that can wrinkle the macula and make the pucker.

## **What are the symptoms of macular puckers?**

The symptoms can vary in severity and may involve both eyes. Common symptoms include:

- Blurred central vision
- Distorted vision
- Difficulty reading or performing tasks that require detail vision
- Gray or cloudy area in your central vision

## **How is macular pucker treated?**

In mild cases, there is no treatment needed. In more severe cases when your vision is quite distorted and blurred even with glasses, your eye doctor may

recommend retinal surgery (a vitrectomy and membrane peel). During this surgery, your doctor will remove the wrinkled tissue. After surgery, the macula will become flat again and your vision will slowly improve.

**For more information, scan this code with your smartphone or visit the website.**



<http://www.geteyesmart.org/eyesmart/diseases/macular-pucker.cfm>.

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Author: Shayla Wilson, MPH candidate  
Reviewers: Gale Oren, MILS and Paula Anne Newman-Casey, MD, MS

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