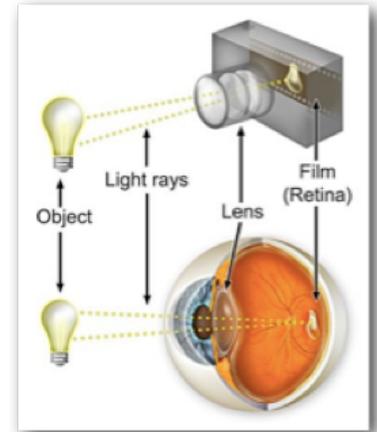


# MACULAR PUCKER

*The eye works like a camera. The front clear window (cornea) and the lens transmit the image that an object casts onto the retina which acts like the film in a camera. The retina takes a picture and transmits that picture to the brain by way of the optic nerve. The macula is the part of the retina that gives us our central vision and our color vision.*



## WHAT IS A MACULAR PUCKER?

A macular pucker occurs when a membrane grows over the surface of the retina. This membrane often times will contract and wrinkle the retina causing an individual to see distorted much like what would happen if you were to bend the film in a camera. A macular pucker often occurs for no particular reason (idiopathic), but can occur in individuals with diabetes, retinal tears, retinal detachments and in association with inflammatory eye diseases.

## HOW IS A MACULAR PUCKER DIAGNOSED?

A macular pucker is diagnosed by looking into the eye. Often times the doctor will order tests to determine the extent of the wrinkle (OCT) and a fluorescein angiogram to explore any underlying circulation problems that may be associated with the macular pucker.

## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF A MACULAR PUCKER?

Symptoms of a macular pucker vary from patient to patient. The most common complaints arise from reduction in vision and distortion of central vision.

## HOW IS A MACULAR PUCKER TREATED?

If a patient is experiencing minimal symptoms that do not cause a problem with driving or everyday life often the doctor will simply watch for any sign of progression. If a macular pucker is associated with swelling of the retina, the doctor may recommend medication to lessen the swelling. If the macular pucker debilitates a patient because of distortion or reduction in vision, the doctor may recommend surgery.

## WHAT DOES SURGERY INVOLVE?

The surgery to remove a macular pucker is a commonly performed procedure called a vitrectomy (figure A). It is done as an outpatient at All Saints Surgery Center. The procedure takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. It involves making small openings in the white part of the eye (sclera). Using microinstrumentation the vitreous gel is removed and replaced with a clear liquid. Following this the membrane is gently stripped from the surface of the retina. The day after surgery, the doctor will remove the eye patch and start the post op drops which will be used for several weeks. Improvement in vision is slow to occur because even though the reason for the wrinkle has been removed the wrinkle is still present. It may take weeks to months for the body to smooth out the

wrinkle and for symptoms to improve. Approximately 80% of people who have the surgery feel that their vision had improved to a point that it improved the quality of their life. As with any surgery there is always the potential for complication including infection, retinal detachment and cataract formation, which the doctor will be happy to discuss with you.

