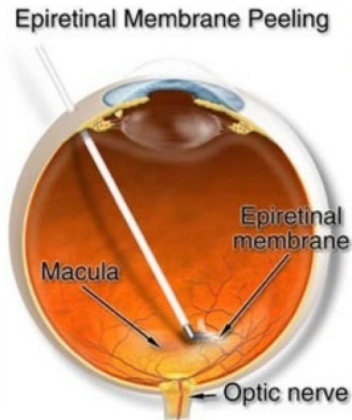


Epiretinal Membrane treatments

Not all Epiretinal membranes require treatment. If the Epiretinal Membrane is very mild, and has little or no effect on your vision, then treatment will generally be unnecessary.

In more severe cases, Epiretinal Membrane surgery may be necessary to remove the membrane.

You can discuss your treatment options for Epiretinal Membranes with an eye expert when you make an appointment.

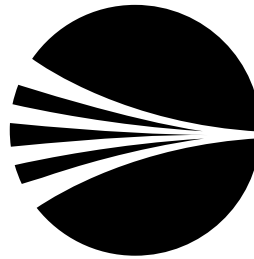


Vision loss is preventable

It's important to remember that many people do not know they have eye disease because there are often no warning signs or symptoms, or they assume that poor sight is a natural part of growing older. Early detection and treatment of eye problems is the best way to keep your healthy vision throughout your life. In many cases, blindness and vision loss are preventable.

Adults with no signs or risk factors for eye disease get a baseline eye disease screening at age 40. For individuals at any age with symptoms of or at risk for eye disease, should see their ophthalmologist to determine how frequently their eye should be examined.

Compliments of
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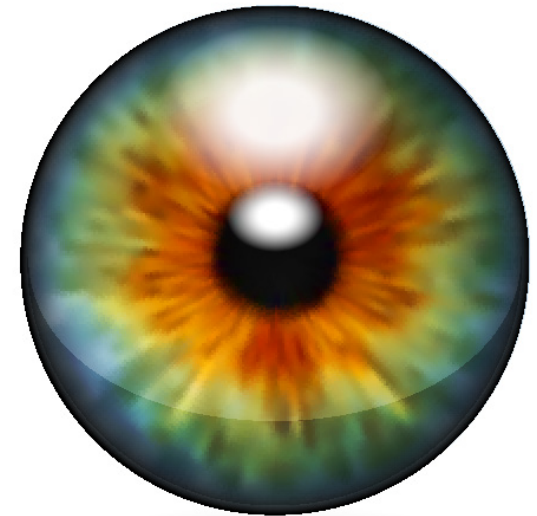
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A Closer Look at
**ERM (Epiretinal
Membrane)**

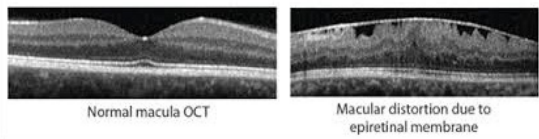


Patient Education

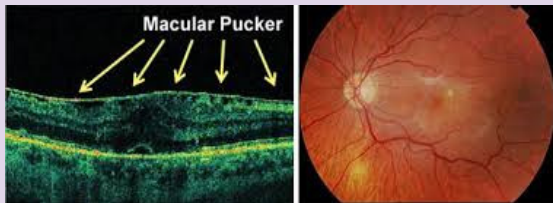
Epiretinal Membrane

Epiretinal membrane (ERM) creates a film over the Macula at the back of the eye, making it harder for you to see.

An avascular fibro cellular membrane that proliferates on the inner surface of the retina to produce various degrees of macular dysfunction.



Epiretinal membranes are often confused with macular degeneration although both conditions affect the macula (the sharp focusing area of the retina at the back of your eyes) they actually have different symptoms and causes.



Epiretinal Membrane Symptoms

An Epiretinal membrane will not cause total blindness. It will typically only affect the central vision in the affected eye, while peripheral or “side” vision remains unaffected.

Sometimes, the Epiretinal Membrane can be very mild, and has no effect on vision at all. In other cases, the Epiretinal Membrane may worsen over time causing blurriness and distortion to the central part of your vision.

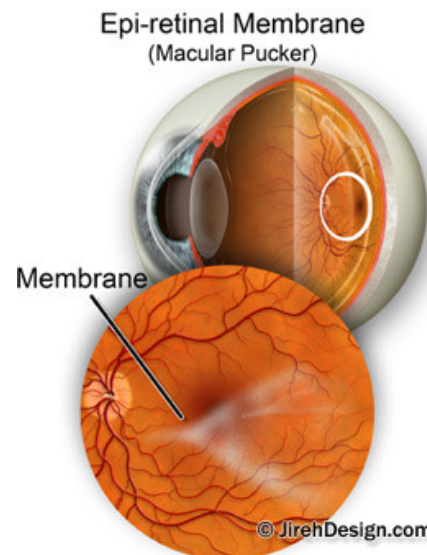
Causes of ERM

An Epiretinal membrane is a thin sheet of fibrous tissue that can form on the macula (the sharp focusing area at the back of your eye). It acts like a film through which it is harder to see.

The film may also contract like scar tissue, which can pull on the delicate retina at the back of your eye. This puckering of the macula can distort your vision, and can also cause the retina to swell so it doesn't work as well. This condition is known as a Macular Pucker.

In most cases, Epiretinal Membrane occurs in people with no history of eye problems. It is usually caused by natural changes in the vitreous gel inside the eye. These changes cause cells from the retina and other parts of the eye to be released into the vitreous gel and they can form a membrane.

Occasionally, however, an Epiretinal membrane can form as a result of a previous eye problem, such as a torn or detached retina, trauma, disease, blood vessel abnormality or other condition.



Diagnostic Procedures

Fluorescein Angiography can be helpful in secondary cases of Epiretinal Membrane including retinal vascular occlusion or intraocular tumors. Macular Edema can be confirmed with angiography as well.

OCT has become increasingly helpful in the diagnosis and management of this disorder. This high-resolution image can allow evaluation of the macula in cross section and three-dimensionally. OCT can be helpful detecting subtle ERM as well as when associated with macular edema or other macular pathology.

OCT can also help guide management. Some cases of ERM with Vitreomacular traction are subtle clinically and better detected with OCT. One of the great advantages of the OCT is the assessment of the Vitreoretinal interface this can provide additional information regarding therapeutic options and prognosis. In surgical cases, evaluation of each scan can elucidate the best approach for removal. Spectral domain OCT can also allow evaluation of the outer retinal layers/structure which may have bearing on the physiologic outcome after an ERM removal.

How are your eyes examined?

When your eyes are examined, they will be dilated using eye drops. During this examination, which is painless, your eye doctor will observe if there are any changes to your eye including the retina and vitreous.

