

Macular Hole Surgery

You have been diagnosed with a condition called macular hole. The retina is the lining of the back of the eye which functions like film in a camera. It collects light which is processed and then transferred to the brain. The center of the retina is called the macula. In some situations the vitreous or jelly like substance that fills the eye will collapse and pull on the macula. This can cause a central defect or hole. This defect can be repaired with a surgical procedure called a vitrectomy. The procedure is performed by inserting a tiny needle in the eye which removes the jelly substance and replaces the fluid with an air bubble. The air serves as a splint or a tamponade and will seal the hole. The bubble usually stays in the eye for a total of approximately two months. During that time the bubble shrinks so that patients often see a fluid level or black line. This is a normal healing process and allows the patient to know when his healing process is completed. However it may take months to a year to achieve the final visual improvement.

During the two months of air bubble, the patient can not participate in air travel or move to elevated areas such as mountain travel. Additionally one should refrain from any activities that would cause a sudden jar to the head or a bouncing movement. Your Physician will monitor the air fluid level on each visit post-op.

As with any operative procedure, there are common risks. The greatest risk in eye surgery is loosing your eye from an infection or hemorrhage. Additionally other complications can include cataract or other scar tissue formation and possibly retinal detachment. All of these complications are rare but should be considered in any elective eye procedure.

We will usually perform preoperative testing including measurements of the retinal thickness and blood flow in the office. These tests are to ensure a good result and proper healing and to avoid further complications. Other tests of the patient's medical condition will be outlined by the Nurse in order to minimize anesthesia risks. Please feel free to discuss any medical problems or concerns with the Doctor or Nurse before your surgery.

Patient Signature

Date

Relationship to patient

Witness