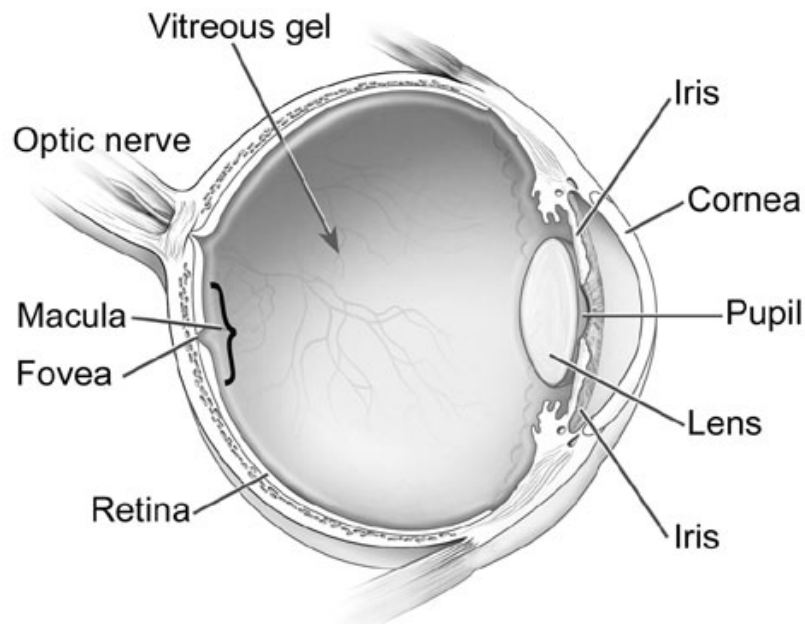


MACULAR HOLE

What is a Macular Hole?

A macular hole is a condition where a very small hole has developed right in the center of the retina in an area that is responsible for our sharpest vision. The part of the eye affected is called the macula. The macula is made up of special nerve cells that provide us with the sharp central vision we need for seeing fine detail (reading and driving etc.). When a macular hole develops, you will suffer from symptoms such as a dark area right in the center of your vision, distortion, or general blurring.



*Image courtesy of the National Eye Institute <http://www.nei.nih.gov>

Why do I have a Macular Hole?

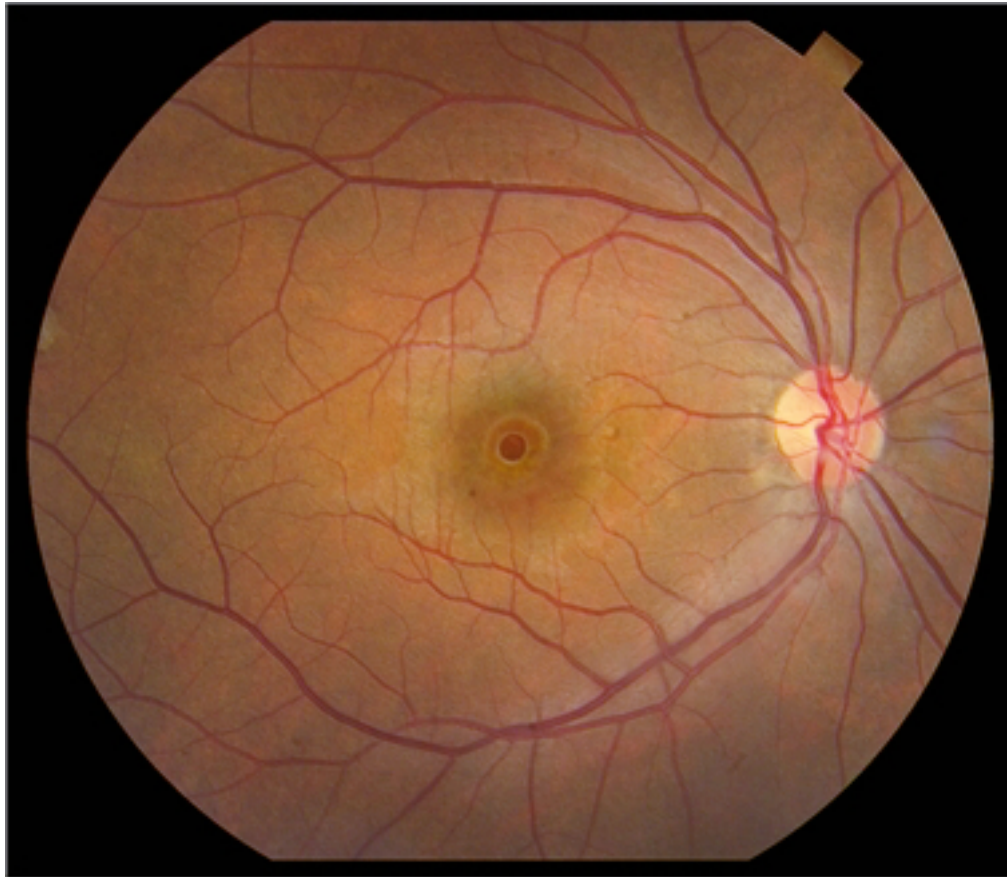
We do not know why people develop macular holes. However, we do know that it occurs more often in patients later in life (60 years of age and older) and occurs more often in females. Macular holes are **not related to macular degeneration**. If you have a macular hole you have less than a 25% risk of developing a macular hole in your fellow eye.

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Assessment for a Macular Hole

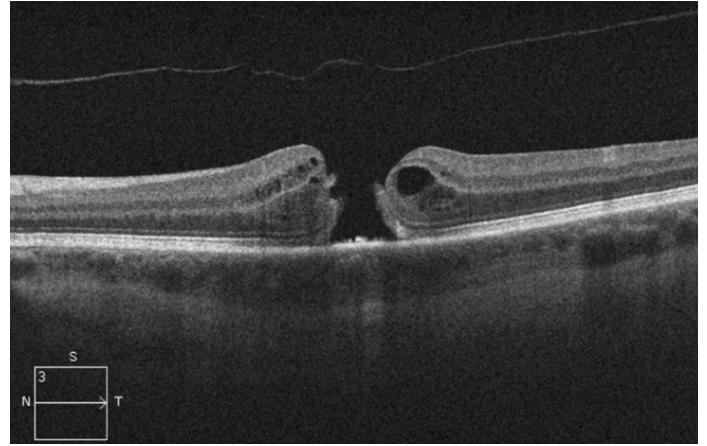
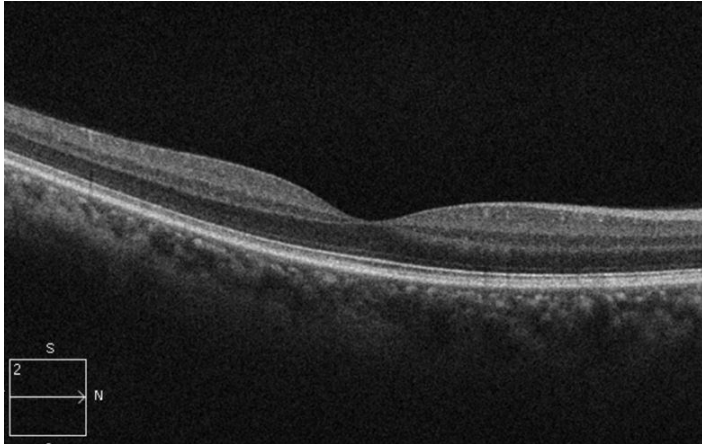
We are able to detect a macular hole during an eye examination. Sometimes, a special scan of the back of the eye (Optical Coherence Tomography) may be needed to confirm the presence of a macular hole. If a macular hole is present, your surgeon will likely recommend a surgical procedure to try to close the hole and improve your vision. Surgery is the only way to treat a macular hole, there are no eye drops or medications that you can take that will help. For more information about macular hole surgery, please visit the surgery information section of our website.



Appearance of a macular hole on clinical exam.

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Normal OCT (left) compared to an OCT of an eye with a Macular Hole (right).

Further Information

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this or any other information please call our office at 614-464-3937.

We also have information on our website at www.theretinagroup.com

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