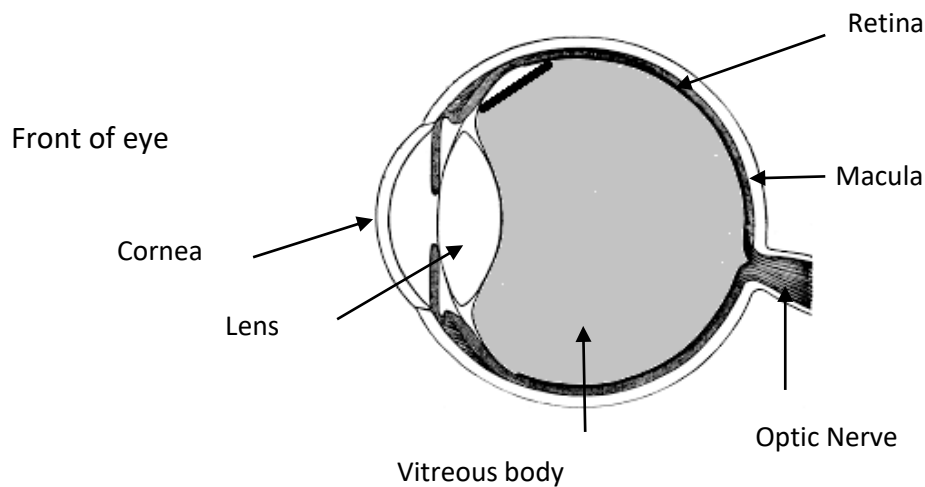


## VITREOMACULAR TRACTION

### What parts of the eye are involved?

The back of the eye has a light-sensitive lining called the retina, similar to the film in an old-style camera. Light is focussed through the eye onto the retina, allowing us to see. The back of the eye is filled with a jelly-like substance called vitreous which has fibres attached to the retina.

The central part of the retina is called the macula, where the light is focussed for us to see fine detail such as when reading or driving.



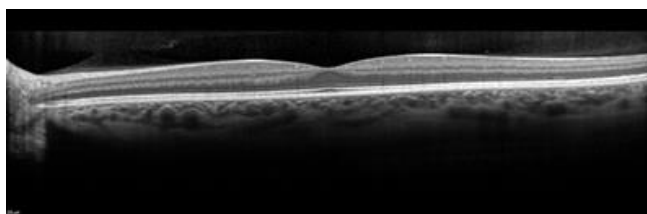
As the vitreous naturally ages, it can shrink and pull away from the retina. In some people the vitreous remains stuck on the macula and pulls on the surface. This is known as vitreomacular traction (VMT).

### What are the symptoms of VMT?

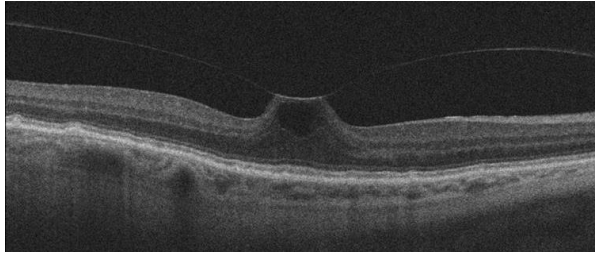
Many people can have a mild form of VMT with very few symptoms. Since the pulling occurs on the macula, blurred vision and/or distortions can develop. In some people as the pulling continues, swelling can occur and a macular hole can develop. This causes the central vision to be affected with a small blind spot in the central area. This will affect detailed visual activities.

### How is VMT diagnosed?

Usually your eye specialist will look the back of your eye with a dilated eye examination. This enables a clearer view of the retina. An OCT scan is used to document the severity of the VMT.



Normal OCT scan



OCT scan with vitreomacular traction

### **How is VMT treated?**

Treatment is not required when VMT is mild and not causing any visual change. Treatment is indicated if vision loss occurs or symptoms start to impact on a person's daily activities. Vitrectomy surgery is usually the most effective way to release the VMT. During the surgery the vitreous is removed from the back of the eye and any scar tissue removed. Occasionally some patients may be able to have an injection into the eye to dissolve the VMT without surgery.

### **How will my vision be after surgery?**

Vision will vary depending on the severity and time that the VMT has been present. There is always the chance of remaining distortion after vitrectomy surgery.

**Please see Vitrectomy surgery handout for further information.**

**Please contact Dr KL Lee if you have any questions:**

<b>Maitland Eye Centre</b> <b>02 4933 5755</b>	<b>Singleton Eye Centre</b> <b>02 6572 2522</b>	<b>Raymond Terrace</b> <b>02 4929 5969</b>
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