

RETINA CONSULTANTS OF WESTERN NEW YORK

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Epiretinal Membrane

What Is It?

- The globe (eyeball) is shaped like a camera in that there is a lens and a film. The film is called retina in the human eye.
- The center part of the retina is called the macula.
- Macula is the part of the eye that allows one to see the center part of the vision and the details.
- A wrinkle has developed on the macula. This is called **epiretinal membrane** (aka **macular pucker, preretinal membrane, gliosis**)
- This may have occurred due to aging, previous injury or inflammation.

Analogy

- Imagine if the film in a camera has wrinkles, then the pictures that are developed will be distorted and blurred.
- The same process is occurring in your eye(s). The wrinkle is distorting your vision leading to blurred vision and distorted lines,

Treatment

- Observation is generally followed until this condition has progressed to a clinically significant stage where it begins to significantly decrease the vision.
- Surgery is performed when it becomes clinically significant
- Before surgery, its progression is monitored with an Amsler grid which is a chart composed of straight lines resembling a graph.
- It should be used one eye at a time on a daily basis under similar conditions each time.
- If the lines become more wavy or vision worsens, please call.