

# What is a Macular Pucker?

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Oct. 23, 2020

Macular pucker happens when wrinkles, creases or bulges form on your [macula](#). The macula must lie flat against the back of your eye to work properly. When the macula wrinkles or bulges, your central vision is affected.

With macular pucker, things can look wavy, or you may have trouble seeing details. You might notice a gray or cloudy area in your central vision. You may even have a blank spot in your central vision. Macular pucker will not affect your peripheral (side) vision.

## Macular Pucker Causes



Age is the most common cause of [macular pucker](#). As you get older, the [vitreous](#) begins to shrink and pull away from the [retina](#). Usually the vitreous pulls away with no problems. But

sometimes the vitreous can stick to the retina. Scar tissue forms, causing the retina and [macula](#) to wrinkle or bulge.

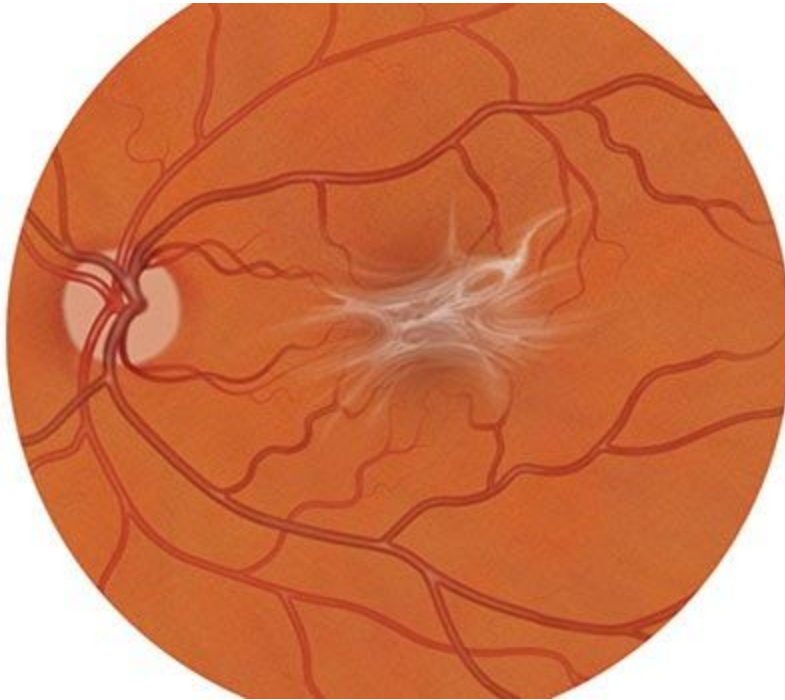
## Who is at risk for macular pucker?

Aging is the most common risk factor for macular pucker. People who have other eye problems may also get a macular pucker. These problems include:

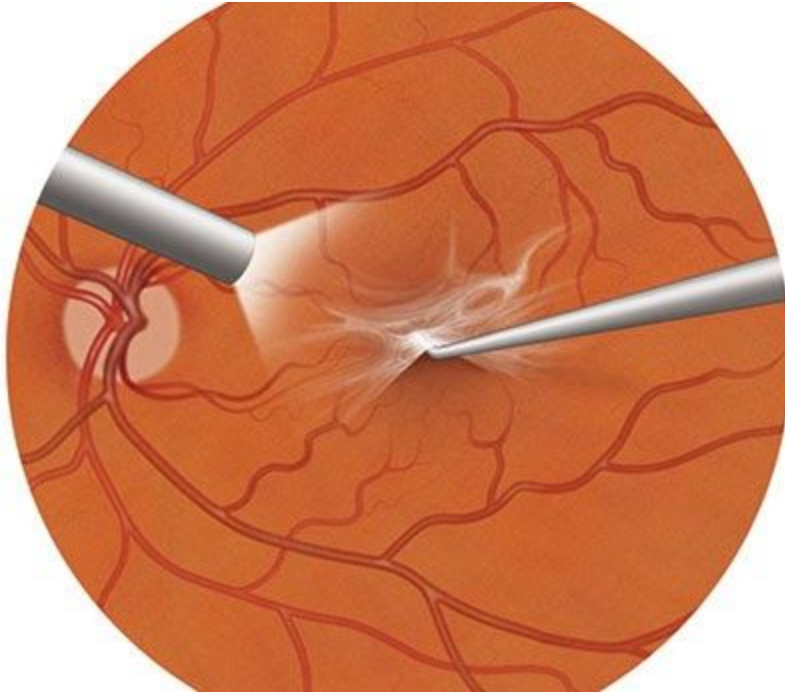
- [Posterior vitreous detachment](#), where the eye's vitreous pulls away from the retina
- [Torn or detached retina](#)
- Swelling inside the eye
- Previous surgery or serious damage to the eye from injury
- Problems with blood vessels in the retina

## Macular Pucker Treatment

How you are treated depends on your symptoms.



*Macular pucker before surgery.*



*Your ophthalmologist uses tiny instruments to remove the wrinkled tissue on the macula.*

If your symptoms are mild, you might not need any treatment. Instead, your [ophthalmologist](#) may change your [glasses or contact lens prescription](#) to improve your vision. You might also choose to wear bifocals when you are looking at something close. Eye drops, medicine, and laser surgery do not help vision if you have macular pucker.

If your symptoms are more serious, your ophthalmologist may recommend a [surgery called vitrectomy](#). Your ophthalmologist will remove some of the [vitreous](#) and scar tissue on your [macula](#). This flattens the macula, returning it to its proper position. It is likely your vision will slowly improve. However, your sight may not be as good as it was before macular pucker.

## What are vitrectomy surgery risks?

Like all surgery, vitrectomy has some risks. They include:

- [Eye infection](#)
- Bleeding in your eye
- A [detached retina](#) (where the retina lifts away from the back of the eye)
- Having the macular pucker happen again
- [Cataract](#), when the lens in your eye becomes cloudy

Your ophthalmologist will talk about these risks and how vitrectomy surgery may help you.

Source:

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/what-is-macular-pucker>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/macular-pucker-cause>

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/macular-pucker-diagnosis>