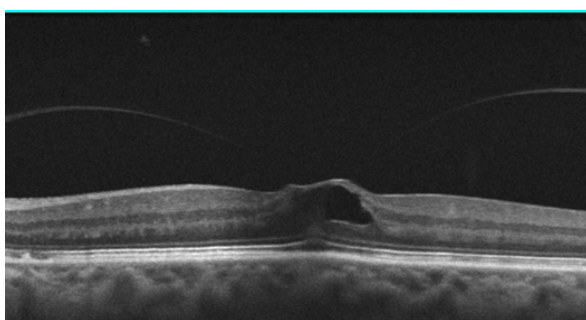


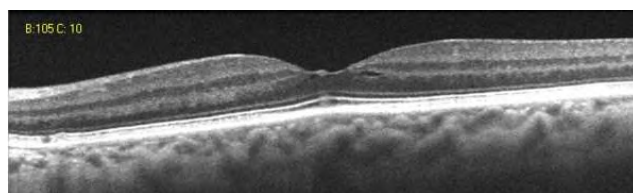
Vitreous traction

This is not an uncommon condition where the jelly (vitreous) of the eye collapses with age, but the tetherings at the centre of the vision do not separate. It is like peeling off a sticky label, some times they come off cleanly other times they stick. If they stick in the eye it causes traction on the retina as seen below. This can distort the vision.

Often they separate naturally and it is worth allowing a few months for this to happen. If it does not and it is affecting the vision then surgery to remove the vitreous and cut the traction will allow the retina to settle back to its normal shape.



Vitreous traction



3 months later naturally separated.

Ocriplasmin (Microplasmin)

There are new drugs being developed to release this traction. Ocriplasmin is one such drug that has under gone trials. <http://thrombogenics.com/our-science/ophthalmology/ocriplasmin/> It is delivered by a small injection into the eye in a similar way to how Lucentis (Ranibizumab) or Avastin (Bevacizumab) are given. Thus a very familiar technique.

At presentation at American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2011 they found
30% had resolved traction at 28 days
41 % had 2 lines of visual improvement at 6 months.
40% of those with macular holes were closed at 6 months.

This is very encouraging results and we await for the product to be licensed. In the UK I suspect it will need to go through NICE appraisal system before being available under the NHS.

However the results are very promising and may well result in less need for vitrectomy surgery.

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