

Lamellar macular hole

Information for patients



What is a lamellar macular hole?

A lamellar macular hole is a problem with the retina. Your retina is made of layers (or lamellae) of nerve cells inside your eye. It sends signals to your brain when light falls on it. The macula is the area of retina used for fine central vision- for things like reading and recognising faces.

A lamellar macular hole is a defect that goes only **part-way through** the macula, leaving the outer retinal layers intact. This is different from a full thickness macular hole, where the defect goes all the way through the retina.

How does a lamellar macular hole affect your vision?

A lamellar macular hole can make objects in the centre of your vision seem blurry or distorted. Straight lines like the edges of doors or windows may appear bent. Some people have very little change in their vision. In most cases the vision does not get progressively worse, but instead stays the same over time.

What causes a lamellar macular hole?

In many cases there is no obvious cause. Other cases may be caused by a pulling on the retina from the gel filling the eye (the vitreous); swelling of the macula (known as oedema); or sideways pulling from a new layer that has formed on top of the retina (an epiretinal membrane).

Is there any treatment?

In general, there is no treatment for a lamellar macular hole. An operation may be offered in special cases where the lamellar hole is caused by an epiretinal membrane pulling on the retina or if it changes into a full thickness macular hole.

Although the change in vision from a lamellar macular hole can be annoying, it usually does not get worse over time.

What if your vision gets worse?

Ask your optician to examine you. They can arrange an appointment in the Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion if needed.

