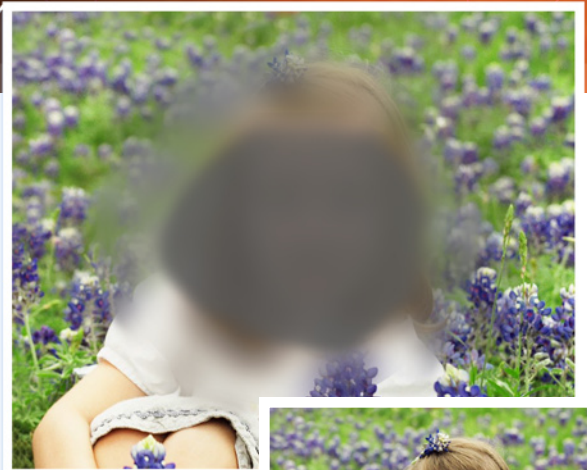
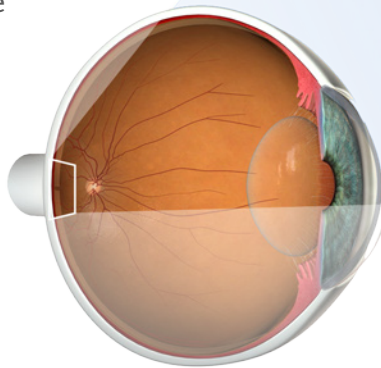


Macular Hole

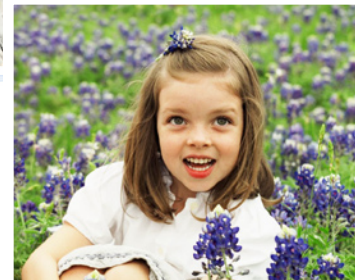
The Macula is the portion of the retina responsible for your sharpest central vision, as well as your color vision. As we age, the gel-like fluid that fills most of the eye, called “vitreous,” can shrink. Tiny strands of vitreous are attached to the macula and can pull it apart, creating a macular hole.

Symptoms

In its early stages, the macular hole involves only the outer layers of the retina and may cause only a mild, wavy distortion of vision, blurred vision, or some decrease in the brightness of colors. As the disease advances, the eye can develop a gray area in the central vision or a substantial decrease in central vision.



Simulated vision with a macular hole



Normal vision

Treatment

A macular hole is a potentially serious problem. In many cases, vision can be improved with a procedure called a “vitrectomy.” In this procedure, the vitreous is removed from the eye with a tiny instrument and replaced with either clear fluid, gas, or silicone oil – all of which work like a temporary bandage to hold the retina in place as it heals. The fluid or gas is absorbed over time. Silicone oil is commonly removed with a second procedure a few months later. The earlier a macular hole is discovered, the greater the chance an eye surgeon has to restore vision, so it is important to schedule an examination with your eye care professional as soon as you begin to notice any disturbance in your vision.