

A Technique for Intraoperative Examination of Sclerotomy-Related Retinal Breaks

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Advantages:

To introduce an easy and comfortable way of checking the peripheral retina posterior to the site of sclerotomy in phakic eyes at the end of the vitrectomy. Compared to the suggested method of examination by performing indirect ophthalmoscopy, this technique has the following advantages: 1) High sensitivity because of better magnification; 2) Easy to perform and time consuming because the surgeon remains in his or her vitrectomy position behind the microscope; 3) No need for special training; and 4) No need for special instrument.

Methods:

After closure of one of the sclerotomy by a plug, the prism lens is placed with the base toward the closed sclerotomy. Holding a light probe in the opposite side and applying sclera pressure by a depressor to the same side, the retina posterior to the sclerotomy can be easily and accurately seen for any break up the level of ora serrata.

Effectiveness / Safety:

In all phakic eyes in which the vitreous skirt is not opaque enough to preclude visualization of fundus periphery, this surgeon-friendly technique is efficient for finding most sclerotomy-related breaks at the end of the vitrectomy surgery. Take home message: Intraoperative checking of peripheral retina posterior to the site of sclerotomy in phakic eyes can be easily performed at the position of vitrectomy without using indirect ophthalmoscopy.