

## **Macular Hole Surgery: ILM Heme Visualization**

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### **Advantages:**

Using autologous blood to visualize the ILM during macular hole surgery is simple, inexpensive and apparently safe.

### **Methods:**

Blood is withdrawn from the patient at sterilely prepped venipuncture site. The blood is transferred into a heparin sodium tube and gently agitated. After a thorough vitrectomy is performed, a very small amount of the blood is carefully injected over the macula. The eye is agitated, and the blood is then aspirated leaving behind a small amount as a thin film. Using forceps the ILM is peeled, and it is well visualized by the adherent red blood cells.

### **Effectiveness / Safety:**

The technique has produced excellent results with consistent closure rate and no apparent complications. A case series and caveats of the technique will be discussed.