

## **ILM peeling for management of idiopathic epimacular membranes**

Author: Hassan Mortada, Cairo, Egypt

### **Advantages:**

Systematic ILM peeling in eyes with idiopathic epimacular membranes ensure complete removal of epiretinal membrane, thus ensure complete relief of tangential traction with subsequent better restoration of the normal macular contour and better visual results. It also reduces the incidence of recurrence of epimacular proliferation.

### **Methods:**

22 eyes with symptomatic idiopathic epimacular membranes underwent PPV. Following 23 G transconjunctival vitrectomy, the presence of an attached posterior cortical vitreous was looked for using TA. Trypan blue - assisted peeling of both the epimacular membrane and ILM was performed. The basal vitreous gel was next excised to achieve complete vitrectomy. The retinal periphery was next examined and endolaser was applied to retinal breaks if present. TA was next injected and left to assist in resolving the associated macular edema. Preoperative and postoperative visual acuity, OCT and fundus photography were performed.

### **Effectiveness / Safety:**

This technique was safe and effective in restoring the normal or near normal OCT configuration of the macula with improvement of visual acuity in 20 eyes. In 2 eyes macular edema persisted but showed improvement over time. No recurrences of epimacular membranes or retinal detachment were encountered.

### **Take home message:**

ILM peeling should be combined with epimacular membrane removal in eyes with idiopathic epimacular membranes.