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Cases

CFEH Facebook Case #28

Spot diagnosis: What is the optic nerve anomaly pictured below?

The patient is a 52 year old, asymptomatic Asian male. Vision in this eye is limited by a lamellar macular hole but is 6/12 aided.



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ANSWER

Bergmeisters papilla – a persistent remnant of the hyaloid artery.

During gestation the hyaloid artery nourishes the developing crystalline lens. The artery is surrounded by a perivascular sheath and before birth this artery regresses, however this regression is sometimes incomplete. Remnants of this artery can be seen in 95% of premature infants and 3% of full term infants.

The term Bergmeisters papillae can be used to describe persistence of either the central vascular core (as in this case) or of the fibrogliial sheath. The latter appears as a tuft of glial tissue that is most commonly located on the nasal aspect of the disc – although this can be highly variable.

This finding is of minimal clinical significance.

