

CFEH Facebook Case #60

A 36 year old Asian male was referred to CFEH for a macular assessment, suspected to have an epiretinal membrane (ERM) at the right macula. The left eye was unremarkable and won't be discussed here. His best corrected acuity was 6/4.8 and testing with an amsler grid reveals no distortion. He is healthy and takes no medications. He doesn't have an ERM, so what is causing the unusual macular appearance?



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ANSWER

OCT imaging of the macula shows increased reflectivity on the posterior cortical vitreous extending from the optic nerve head to the macula. This increased reflectivity is causing the ERM-like appearance seen in the macular photo. There are also some glial remnants visible at the optic nerve head (Bergmeister's papillae – please refer to Facebook case 28 for further information on this condition). These findings indicate the presence of persistent hyaloid remnants on the posterior cortical vitreous of the right eye.

Persistent remnants of the hyaloid vascular system has been reported in 3% of infants born full-term, and 95% of those born premature. These remnants can often be seen as; Mittenforf dots on the posterior lens capsule (remnants of the anterior portion of the hyaloid artery), a persistent pupillary membrane or as Bergmeisters papille at the optic disc.

The presentation here is more unusual, but not problematic. Routine review is all that is required.