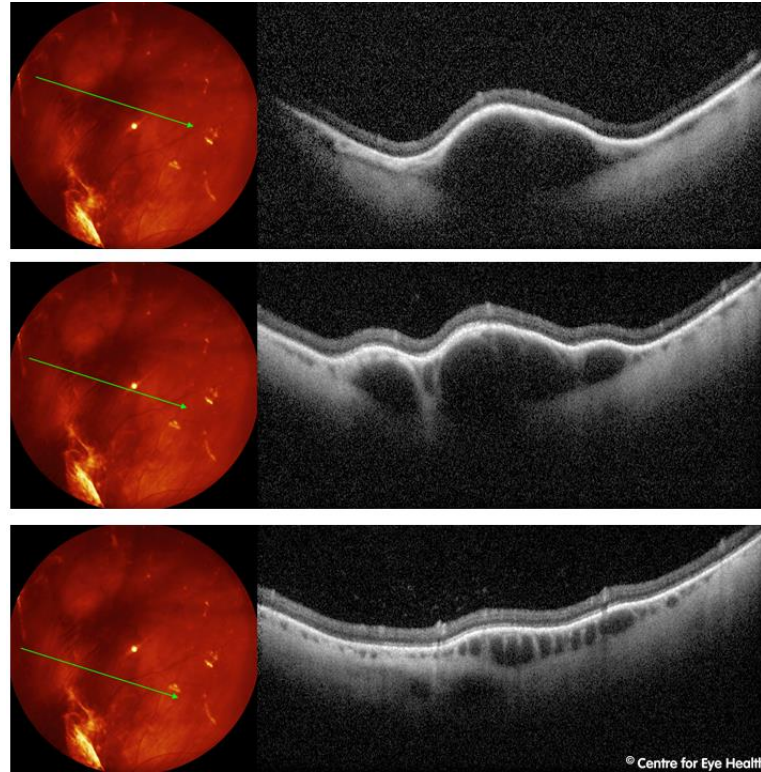




CFEH Facebook Case #94

A 40 year old Caucasian male was referred for investigation of a raised area of retina superiorly in the right eye. His visual acuity is 6/6 in each eye and he is asymptomatic. What is the nature of the lesion imaged below (identified by the blue square in the Optomap image)?



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ANSWER

Vortex vein varix.

OCT imaging allows us to scan through the elevation and measure its maximum height which is found to be just under 800µm. The OCT images show an optically empty thickening of the choroid with significant dilation of the choroidal veins. There is a subtle posterior displacement of the sclera and no changes to the overlying retinal architecture.

This presentation is consistent with a diagnosis of vortex vein varix, which represents a physiological dilation of one of the choroidal vortex veins. This is a benign condition that can sometimes mimic a choroidal melanoma. During an examination, the two can be distinguished most easily by observation with a binocular indirect ophthalmoscope. A vortex vein varix will typically flatten or collapse in certain directions of gaze and may be flattened with manual scleral depression while a melanoma, being a solid lesion, will not.