

1 **Recovery Course of Persistent Subretinal Fluid After Successful Repair of**  
2 **Rhegmatogenous Retinal Detachment**

3 **Short Title:** Submacular fluid after retinal reattachment

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9 **Keywords:** Macula-off; ellipsoid zone; persistent submacular fluid; pars plana  
10 vitrectomy, rhegmatogenous retinal detachment, scleral buckle.

## 11 **Abstract**

12 Objectives: To investigate best corrected visual acuity (BCVA), subretinal fluid (SRF)  
13 absorption time or ellipsoid zone (EZ) restoration time and various variables in  
14 patients with persistent SRF after successful primary repair of rhegmatogenous  
15 retinal detachment (RRD).

16 Methods: This retrospective multicenter study allowed independent analysis of the  
17 healing pattern by two observers based on composite of serial cross-sectional  
18 macular optical coherence tomography (OCT) scans. Univariate and multivariate  
19 analyses were implemented.

20 Results: One hundred and three cases had persistent SRF after pars plana  
21 vitrectomy, scleral buckling, or pneumatic retinopexy. By univariate analysis, SRF  
22 resolution time correlated positively with the number of retinal breaks ( $p < 0.001$ ) and  
23 with increased myopia ( $p = 0.011$ ). Using multivariate analysis, final BCVA (log MAR)

1 correlated positively with age, duration of RRD, initial BCVA (OR=3.28; [95%CI=  
2 1.44-7.47]; p=0.015), and SRF resolution time (OR=0.46 [95%CI 0.21-1.05];  
3 p=0.049). EZ restoration time was longer with increasing number of retinal tears  
4 (OR=0.67; [95%CI 0.29-1.52]; p=0.030), worse final BCVA, and presence of macula-  
5 off RRD (OR=0.26; [95%CI 0.08-0.88]; p=0.056). SRF resolution time correlated  
6 marginally with prone position.

7 Conclusions: Final BCVA is better in younger subjects and in eyes with shorter  
8 duration of RRD. It is a self-limited disorder with good visual prognosis.

9

## 10 **Introduction**

11 The macula's healing process can vary in rhegmatogenous retinal detachment  
12 (RRD) repair managed by scleral buckling (SB) and/or pars plana vitrectomy (PPV).  
13 Postoperative macular abnormalities include epiretinal membrane development,  
14 cystoid macular edema, reduced vascular density in the deep and superficial retinal  
15 plexus, and persistent subretinal fluid (SRF [1-22]. Residual SRF is made up of tiny,  
16 non-shifting, subtle pockets of loculated fluid that frequently affect the macular area.  
17 It is extremely difficult to detect with indirect ophthalmoscopy and is more likely to be  
18 suspected with slit lamp biomicroscopy. In eyes with macroscopically successful  
19 RRD repair but insufficient vision recovery, little is known about the fine structural  
20 macular healing process when there is sub-foveal persisting SRF [2-19]. The  
21 features and temporal stages of microstructural healing when persistent subretinal  
22 blebs are noted were examined in this study using serial spectral domain or swept  
23 source optical coherence tomography (OCT).

## 24 **Methods**

1 This was a retrospective compendium of cases of persisting SRF 1 month after a  
2 straightforward successful primary RRD repair (any procedure). The participants in  
3 this collection were invited from various retinal societies around the world. The study  
4 was completed with IRB approval and in accordance with the Helsinki Principles.  
5 Because the study was anonymous and retrospective in nature, patient consent was  
6 not necessary and was waived. Participants submitted individual patient data and  
7 serial OCT scans ranging from the first month after surgery till SRF resolution date.  
8 Criteria for inclusion included: persistence of SRF after 1 month after surgery  
9 diagnosed by OCT and a minimum follow-up OCT of 3 months. Criteria for exclusion  
10 included: previous retinal surgery; simultaneous cataract surgery with the retinal  
11 surgery; need for subsequent retina surgery; poor quality of OCT scans; previously  
12 published case series; presence of a giant retinal tear; combined tractional  
13 rhegmatogenous retinal detachment; significant preretinal fibrosis; history of ocular  
14 trauma; diabetes mellitus, Alzheimer's disease, cirrhosis, kidney disease,  
15 uncontrolled systemic hypertension or uncontrolled hyperlipidemia; preexisting  
16 ocular diseases such as nanophthalmos, macular hole or cyst or degeneration,  
17 glaucoma, uveitis, and retinal vascular disorders.

18 Each patient's cross-sectional OCT pictures of the macular area from various visits  
19 were compiled into a serial montage. Two senior observers (AMM, SHU)  
20 independently analyzed the healing patterns and following parameters based on  
21 video and/or raster and/or radial OCT: resolution of SRF and restoration time of the  
22 ellipsoid zone (EZ). In case of disagreement, the OCT scans were reviewed till an  
23 agreement was reached. A standardized data collection sheet was developed for  
24 grading each case. The best corrected visual acuity (BCVA) was measured by  
25 Snellen charts and was converted to log MAR. Data on gender, age, race, lens

1 status, duration of symptoms, extent of retinal detachment, number of retinal tears,  
2 BCVA, and refractive error were collected. Using OCT data acquired at the 1-month  
3 postoperative timepoint, persistent SRF was classified into 3 patterns: single discrete  
4 bleb (or focal group), multiple discrete blebs (or multifocal group), and shallow  
5 diffuse bleb (diffuse group) (Figures 1-4).

6 Primary outcome measures included the time to resolution of SRF, time for healing  
7 of EZ, and final BCVA.

#### 8 Statistical analysis

9 Continuous data were presented as means  $\pm$  standard deviations. Statistical  
10 analyses were performed using Chi-square, two-tailed paired *t* test, one-way  
11 analysis of variance (ANOVA), Fisher test and Pearson correlation coefficient *R*.  
12 Multivariate analysis was carried using SPSS 22 (IBM SPSS, Armonk, New York,  
13 USA) (multiple multivariate regression and multiple discriminate function). The  
14 measures of association were expressed as odds ratios (OR) with 95% confidence  
15 intervals (CI). *P* values of less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.  
16 *P* values of 0.05 to 0.07 were defined to indicate borderline significance.

#### 17 Literature search

18 We performed a literature search for similar studies. The terms “residual subretinal  
19 fluid”, “persistent subretinal fluid”, “subretinal fluid absorption” AND “scleral buckle”,  
20 “vitrectomy”, and “pneumatic retinopexy” were used in a literature search that ran  
21 from January 1991 (when OCT was introduced) through December 2022 using  
22 PubMed, Google Scholar, and their cross references. The final review excluded case  
23 reports, publications with missing data, publications in a language other than  
24 English, German, Spanish, Italian or French, non-peer reviewed articles, and articles

1 that did not meet the inclusion criteria outlined above. The full texts of included  
2 articles were reviewed by the corresponding authors.

### 3 **Results**

4 This retrospective study involved 33 ophthalmic centers in 11 nations from 4  
5 continents. Following retinal reattachment surgery, 103 eyes from 103 patients had  
6 persistent SRF. Average age $\pm$ SD was 52.7 $\pm$ 15.2 (range 10-80; median 56). A  
7 majority of 94 people were Caucasians, followed by 6 Asians and 3 African  
8 Americans. There were 48 women and 55 men in the population. The lens status  
9 included 13 eyes that were pseudophakic and 90 that were phakic. The mean $\pm$ SD  
10 spherical equivalent in diopters was -2.45 $\pm$ 3.05 (range +6.0 to -11.0; median -1.75).  
11 Hyperopia >0.50D was present in 3 eyes, low myopia (-0.5.0D to -3.0D) in 42 eyes,  
12 moderate myopia (-3.25D to -6.0D) in 15 eyes and high myopia (<-6.0D) in 15 eyes.  
13 The duration of RRD had a mean $\pm$ SD of 28.9 $\pm$ 78.7 days (range 1-700; median 7)  
14 with 75 eyes having a duration of  $\leq$ 15 days. The majority had macula-off RRD while  
15 16 eyes had macula-on RRD. The mean $\pm$ SD number of clock hours involved by  
16 RRD was 5.2 $\pm$ 1.8 (range 2-12; median 5) with a majority of 77 eyes being between 4  
17 and 7 clock hours. RRD involved preferentially the temporal quadrants in 63 eyes,  
18 superior quadrants in 49 eyes and the inferior quadrants in 31 eyes. The number of  
19 retinal tears was 1.5 $\pm$ 1.0 (range 1-6; median 1) with 68 eyes having a single tear  
20 detected and 20 eyes having 2 tears. Most retinal tears were distributed temporally  
21 (66 eyes), superiorly (55 eyes) or inferiorly (28 eyes).

### 22 Surgery

23 Surgical intervention included pneumatic retinopexy in 7 eyes, and the rest was  
24 divided equally between SB and PPV: PPV in 40 eyes, SB in 39 eyes, and 17 with  
25 SB-PPV. In 45 eyes, intraoperative perfluorooctane was utilized to flatten the retina,



1 and 22 and 23 eyes, respectively, underwent internal or external subretinal drainage  
2 of subretinal fluid. In 29 eyes, neither perfluoro propane injection nor intraoperative  
3 drainage were carried out. The gas injected consisted of SF<sub>6</sub> in 46 eyes, C<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub> in 16  
4 eyes and C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub> in 4 eyes. Prone position was maintained for several days  
5 postoperatively in 45 eyes.

6 No therapy was prescribed one month after surgery in the hope to facilitate SRF  
7 absorption in 83 patients. Attempted therapies in 20 eyes included a combination of:  
8 topical nepafenac (9 eyes), corticosteroid in 7 eyes (topical in 3 eyes, subtenon in 2  
9 eyes and oral in 2 patients), topical dorzolamide in 6 eyes, oral acetazolamide in 2  
10 patients, oral spironolactone in one patient, and intravitreal injections of aflibercept in  
11 2 eyes, ranibizumab in one eye and bevacizumab in one eye. Cystoid macular  
12 edema (transient) was noted in 5 eyes and epiretinal membranes in 8 eyes.

### 13 Functional outcomes

14 Initial (at 1-month postoperatively) mean±SD BCVA 1.08±0.87 (Snellen equivalent  
15 20/240) improved significantly (p=0.001) thereafter to 3-month BCVA 0.35±0.27  
16 (Snellen equivalent 20/45) (paired t-test=10.7), to 12-month BCVA 0.25±0.24  
17 (Snellen equivalent 20/36) (paired t-test=9.4) and to final BCVA 0.21±0.24 (Snellen  
18 equivalent 20/32) (paired t-test=10.5). The mean±SD of the follow-up was 25.4±23.1  
19 months (range 3-120; median 16) with 83 patients returning to their periodic visits  
20 one year postoperatively and beyond.

### 21 Anatomic outcomes

22 SRF, when located in the fovea, was of the focal type in 28 (28.9%) (Fig.1),  
23 multifocal in 34 (35.1%) (Figs.2, 3) and diffuse in 35 (36.1%) (Fig.4). Six eyes had  
24 extrafoveal SRF distributed as diffuse in 4 and focal or multifocal in one each. The  
25 type of SRF correlated with age with the focal group seen in older patients compared

1 to the rest ( $p=0.016$ ). There was a tendency for male predominance in the focal  
2 group and female predominance in the multifocal group; more so if the tear was  
3 superior ( $p=0.013$ ) or if RRD involved the superior quadrants ( $p=0.008$ ) or if RRD  
4 involved the macula (macula-off RRD) ( $p=0.038$ ). The multifocal group had the  
5 highest percentage of superior RRD. Also, there was a preponderance of PPV  
6 surgery in the focal bleb group and SB surgery in the diffuse bleb group (Table 1).  
7 SRF resolved after a mean of  $11.2\pm 6.4$  months (2-39; median 10) from surgery. The  
8 ellipsoid zone (EZ) recovered after  $11.7\pm 6.9$  months (range 2-57; median 11) (Figs.  
9 1, 2, 4). At the final follow-up visit, 22 eyes (21.4%) still had EZ and ELM disruption  
10 (Fig.3).

11 Using additional univariate analysis, the time for SRF resolution correlated positively  
12 with the number of retinal breaks ( $R=0.34$ ;  $p=0.001$ ) and with increasing myopia ( $R=-$   
13  $0.25$ ;  $p=0.011$ ). Intraoperative drainage of subretinal fluid or use of intravitreal  
14 perfluorooctane injection correlated with increasing age ( $p=0.008$ ) and initial BCVA  
15 ( $p=0.021$ ).

16 Multiple regression analysis showed the following interrelationships (Table 2). Final  
17 BCVA (log MAR) correlated positively with age, duration of RRD, initial BCVA and  
18 time to resolution of SRF. Final BCVA was highly associated with initial BCVA  
19 ( $OR=3.28$ ; [95%CI 1.44-7.47];  $p=0.015$ ), and more so when SRF resolution time was  
20 less than 10 months ( $OR 5.0$  [95%CI 1.35-18.56];  $p=0.015$ ). Final BCVA correlated  
21 with SRF resolution time ( $OR=0.46$  [95%CI 0.21-1.05];  $p=0.049$ ) and more so with  
22 macula-off RRD ( $OR=0.39$  [95%CI 0.16-0.94];  $p=0.029$ ). EZ restoration time  
23 correlated with the number of retinal tears ( $OR=0.67$ ; [95%CI 0.29-1.52];  $p=0.030$ ),  
24 final BCVA (log MAR) ( $OR=0.58$ ; [95%CI 0.26-1.30];  $p=0.037$ ), and macula-off RRD

1 (OR=0.26; [95%CI 0.08-0.88]; p=0.056). SRF resolution time correlated marginally  
2 with prone position (OR=1.32 [95%CI 0.56-3.11]; p=0.070); SRF class did not  
3 correlate with any variables. In other words, final vision related to initial vision and  
4 tended to be better in younger patients, and with shorter duration of RRD in macula-  
5 off cases. The time interval for EZ restoration was longer in eyes with multiple tears.

#### 6 Result of literature review

7 The literature review [1, 6-8, 10,12-18, 20, 21, 25-28] yielded a total of 561 cases  
8 (240 prospective and 321 retrospective cases) from 8 nations: 3 medical centers in  
9 China and Israel, 2 centers in South Korea and Japan, and one center in Italy,  
10 Switzerland, England, and Ireland. Patient characteristics included a male  
11 predominance (57.9%) and a mean±SD age of 47.3±18.6 years. High myopia was  
12 detected in 29.9% of eyes and 87% of the patients were phakic. RRD had the  
13 following fundus features: macula-off in 92.6% of eyes; number of tears 1.7±1.0;  
14 superior location of retinal tears in 59% of eyes; superior location of RRD in of 57%  
15 of eyes; and extent of RRD in clock hours 5.7±2.0. The duration of RRD was  
16 15.2±43.6 days. The SRF type was focal in 30.7%, multifocal in 24.7% and diffuse in  
17 44.5%. Most surgeries were made up of SB (78.8% of cases), with intraoperative  
18 use of intravitreal tamponade or drainage of subretinal fluid carried in 59% of cases.  
19 In this review, the mean±SD time to resolution of SRF was 9.8±6.7 months (Table 3).  
20 BCVA improved from 0.76±0.79 (Snellen equivalent 20/115) to 0.20±0.24 (20/32  
21 Snellen equivalent) at a mean±SD follow-up of 21.1±16.1 months.

#### 22 **Discussion**

23 In the current study, final visual acuity correlated with shorter duration of RRD,  
24 younger age and better initial visual acuity. Also, the restoration time of EZ took  
25 longer with eyes with more tears and with macula-off RRD. Similarly in the literature

1 [10], variables involved in persistence of SRF have included advanced age [3],  
2 inferior RRD [3, 9], longer durations of RRD [3, 9], macula-off RRD, increased  
3 choroidal thickness [22], and type of surgical intervention (more in SB than PPV)  
4 [25]. In eyes where SRF is not drained, SRF absorption advances swiftly when the  
5 retina tears are closed. It is still unclear why minute SRF residues can take months  
6 to vanish completely. Active RPE pump, hydrostatic pressure, and oncotic pressure  
7 gradients (greater oncotic pressure in choroid) favor SRF absorption. There is a flow  
8 of tissue fluid from the choroid to the retina because the hydrostatic pressure in the  
9 choroid is lower than that in the retina [29]. The increased oncotic pressure in the  
10 extravascular stroma is a result of the fenestrated capillaries' high protein  
11 permeability, which promotes the flow of fluid from the retina to the choroid [30]. The  
12 rich membrane RPE pump system (membrane pumps, endocytosis, passive  
13 diffusion), which also includes the Na-K-ATPase system, enables ion concentrations  
14 on either side of RPE to reach a dynamic equilibrium and ensures normal retinal  
15 function [30].

16 With advanced age, the RPE pump is impaired [2-12]; the regular degradation of the  
17 shed photoreceptor lipoprotein is defective; and the transport of nutrients from the  
18 choriocapillaris to the photoreceptors is damaged from the presence of an age-  
19 related hydrophobic barrier formed by accumulated sub-RPE lipoproteins. Likewise,  
20 with long duration RRD, there is a high protein content of SRF, compromised RPE  
21 function from ocular hypotony, disrupted blood retinal barrier and protracted  
22 choroidal edema [26-30].

23 Veckeneer et al [9] noted the inferior RRD to be more susceptible for postoperative  
24 SRF and for its longer persistence. In contrast, Long et al [3] found that inferior

1 breaks had better outcomes than superior tears using multivariable analyses. The  
2 location of the breaks and the RRD location did not influence the final BCVA or SRF  
3 resolution in the current study. Long-term retentions of vitreous diffusion in the SRF  
4 may result in the re-modification of macromolecules and protein components [23],  
5 which would reduce the RPE's ability to absorb SRF. The photoreceptors  
6 degenerate, a cystic space forms in the retina, and the retina atrophies when the  
7 retina is detached for an extended period of time. This prevents SRF from being  
8 absorbed.

9 SRF persistence demonstrates how the surgical procedure impacts its occurrence by  
10 contrasting SB (52.3%-55.6%) [10, 18] to PPV (0-15%) [25, 26] and pneumatic  
11 retinopexy (16%) [2]. In 2 meta-analyses [19, 23], patients undergoing SB have  
12 higher odds of having residual SRF compared with PPV. SB is thought to be more  
13 associated with residual SRF for several reasons: incomplete drainage of subretinal  
14 fluid, use of cryopexy which disrupts the blood retinal barrier, compression of vortex  
15 veins, and decrease in subfoveal choroidal flow [8]. Our study does not address  
16 specifically the incidence of SRF after different surgical procedures.

17 The question of whether intervention is necessary for eyes with SRF is an intriguing  
18 one. Although a brief loss of vision was initially observed, multiple investigations [2,  
19 14, 18] indicated that one year after SB, PPV, or pneumatic retinopexy, there had  
20 been a good visual recovery. We were able to demonstrate an association between  
21 the duration of SRF persistence and both final acuity and EZ healing times, in  
22 contradistinction with other studies [19, 23]. In general, the good visual recovery in  
23 most cases is like cases with central serous chorioretinopathy. In both conditions the

1 small shallow SRF does not appear to affect the nutritional needs of the foveolar  
2 photoreceptors. As a result, medical or surgical intervention seems rarely necessary.

3 There has been no definitive treatment to aid SRF reabsorption. In an attempt to  
4 reappose the photoreceptors with the RPE, persistent SRF could be surgically  
5 removed by internal drainage. Other anecdotal therapies have included SB removal,  
6 selective retinal therapy, systemic steroids, carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and topical  
7 prostaglandin inhibitor [2-19].

8  
9 The main limitations of this study are its retrospective nature, the inclusion of  
10 patients from different centers, the wide variations in surgical techniques, albeit  
11 different follow-up regimens, variety of interventions to resolve SRF, and absence of  
12 potential variables like sleep apnea, body weight, and systemic medications. The  
13 current study excluded more complex RRD such as giant retinal tear, combined  
14 phacoemulsification-vitreotomy, and severe proliferative vitreoretinopathy. Absence  
15 of fundus autofluorescence, microperimetry, color vision perception, and contrast  
16 sensitivity are drawbacks. Another drawback is the absence of measurements  
17 related to the height of SRF, the deep macular vascular layer and to the choroid.  
18 Recently vessel density of the deep capillary plexus appeared to be a good predictor  
19 of visual recovery following successful RRD repair as it appears strongly associated  
20 with the time of restoration of the photoreceptor layers and the postoperative BCVA  
21 [24]. The role of the choroid in the etiology of SRF was recently discovered [22].

22 In conclusion, based on literature review and current findings, delayed resorption of  
23 SRF in the macular area after retinal surgery appears self-limited with no need to  
24 intervene as visual acuity usually recovers well. Final visual outcome is less

1 favorable in older patients, and in eyes with longer duration of RRD that involves the  
2 macula.

### 3 **Abbreviations**

4 BCVA=best-corrected visual acuity; log MAR=logarithm of the minimum angle of  
5 resolution; SRF=subretinal fluid; RRD=rhegmatogenous retinal detachment.

### 6 **Conflicts of Interests**

7 The authors declare no competing interests.

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### 10 **Author Contributions**

11 LL-G, AMM, MP, SB, LH, SU, AGE contributed to the conception and methodology  
12 of the manuscript. All authors contributed to the data collection. AMM and HAM  
13 drafted the manuscript. ARC, AMM, HAM did the statistical analysis. LL-G, SGS, SS,  
14 KT, AGE, MP, SU helped to draft the manuscript. All authors provided comments  
15 and revised the manuscript. All authors contributed to the manuscript revision, read,  
16 and approved the submitted version.

### 17 **Compliance with ethics guidelines**

18 All procedures were in accordance with the ethical standards of the Rafic Hariri  
19 University Hospital Review Board and Ethics Committee on human experimentation  
20 and with the Helsinki Declaration of 1964, as revised in 2013. Informed consent was  
21 not required as the study was retrospective and anonymous.

### 22 **Data Sharing**

23 The complete data can be shared upon request to the corresponding authors

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### 3 **Legends**

4 Fig.1- Serial horizontal foveal OCT scans in this focal SRF type denoted recovery of  
5 the EZ at 20m. There was a transient CME appearing at 5m and lasting two months.  
6 LHEP appeared at 39 m. The patient presented with one week duration of superior  
7 6-clock-hour RRD from 3 nasal and temporal horseshoe tears. During vitrectomy, the  
8 retina was flattened using perfluorooctane, followed by exchange for SF6 gas. Log  
9 Mar vision improved from 0.54 to 0 at the last follow-up 48 m postvitrectomy.

10 Fig.2- Serial horizontal foveal scans at 1, 5, 8 and 14 months after retinal surgery for  
11 right eye RRD. Multifocal SRF with ERM with gradual resolution of SRF 14 m  
12 postoperatively and central delay in the complete restoration of the ellipsoid zone.  
13 ELM is fully restored. This patient presented with 5 days of visual loss. The macula-  
14 off RRD involved 6 clock hours inferiorly and nasally with one inferonasal tear  
15 underwent scleral buckle with transcleral subretinal drainage. No gas was injected.  
16 The patient received no treatment for the SRF. Log MAR visual acuity improved from  
17 1.3 to 0.54 at 60 months of follow-up.

18 Fig.3- Serial horizontal OCT scans of this multifocal type (star sign) of SRF. SRF  
19 resolution is noted at 29m. There is incomplete restoration of ELM and EZ layers at  
20 35m (arrows). This patient had macula-off 6-clock-hour RRD of 120 days duration  
21 with a single supertemporal break. The patient underwent scleral buckle and gas  
22 injection without SRF drainage and assuming prone position postoperatively. Log  
23 MAR visual acuity improved from 3 to 0 36m postoperatively.

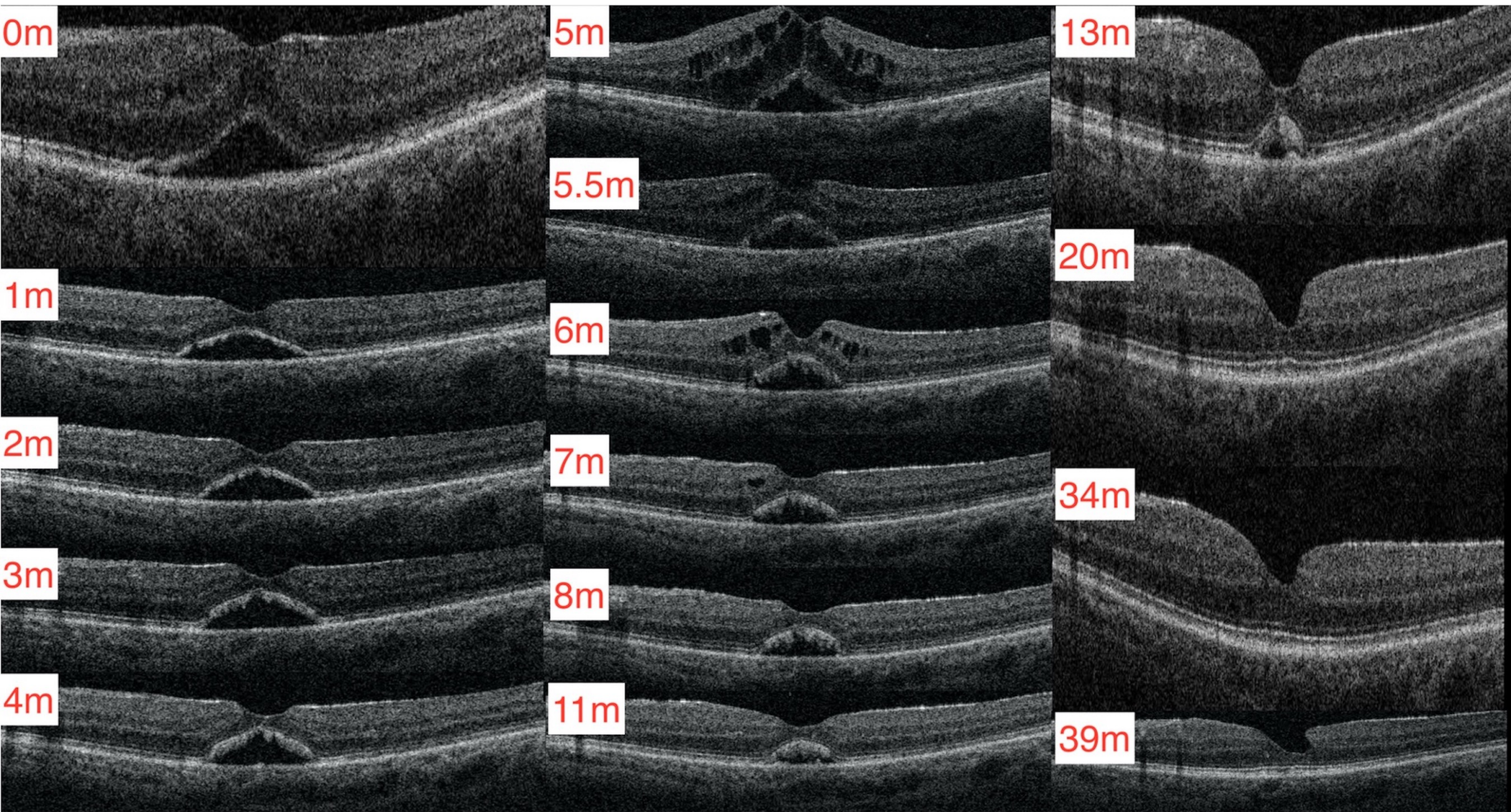
1 Fig.4- Serial horizontal foveal OCT scans of the right eye at 1,2,4,6 and 12 months  
2 after retinal surgery. There is diffuse type of SRF with gradual decrease in SRF and  
3 complete restoration of the ellipsoid zone one year after surgery for RRD. This  
4 patient developed macula-off RRD of 4 days duration from inferior retinal tear. The  
5 patient underwent a combined scleral buckle vitrectomy with intraoperative use of  
6 perfluorooctane and injection of C3F8 gas at end of surgery. Log MAR visual acuity  
7 improved from 0.54 to 0 at the one-year follow-up.

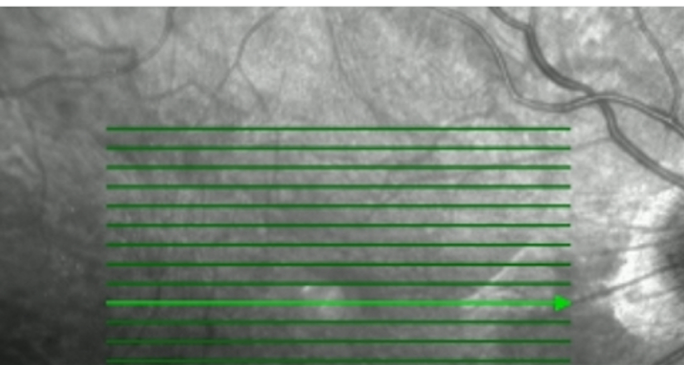
### 8 **Summary Box**

- 9 • **What is already known:** Persistent subretinal fluid leads to poor vision and  
10 there is no established therapeutic modality to fasten its resolution.
- 11 • **What this study adds:**
- 12 • Persistent subretinal fluid had a good visual prognosis with faster recovery in  
13 younger patients and in eyes with macula-on rhegmatogenous retinal  
14 detachment.
- 15 • Ellipsoid zone restoration was faster in eyes with fewer tears.
- 16 • Persistent subretinal fluid after successful reattachment surgery has a self-  
17 limiting course; There is no need for surgical intervention in persistent  
18 subretinal fluid.

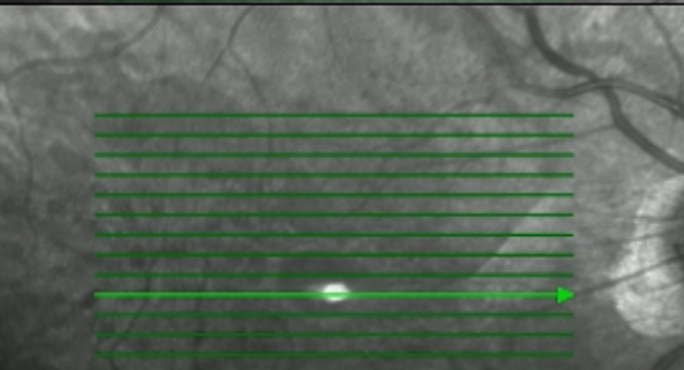
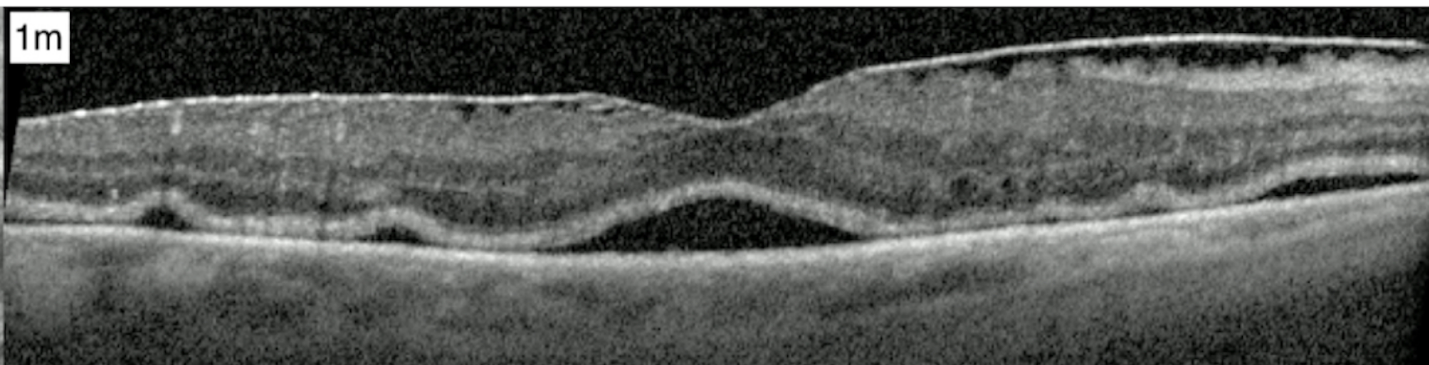
### 19 **Availability of Data and Materials**

20 The complete data can be shared upon request to the corresponding authors

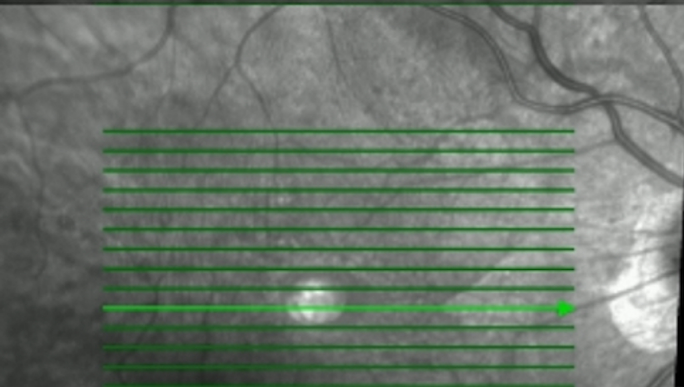
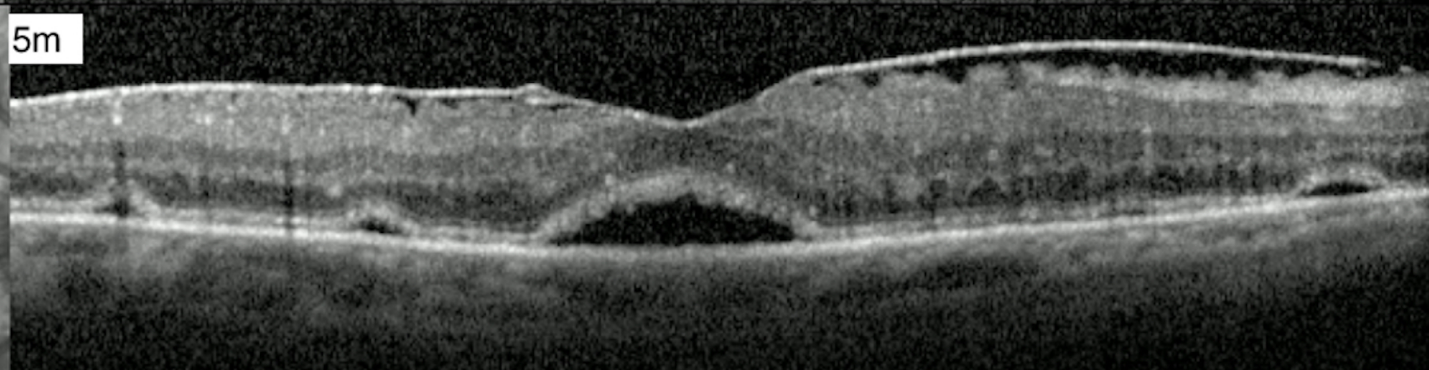




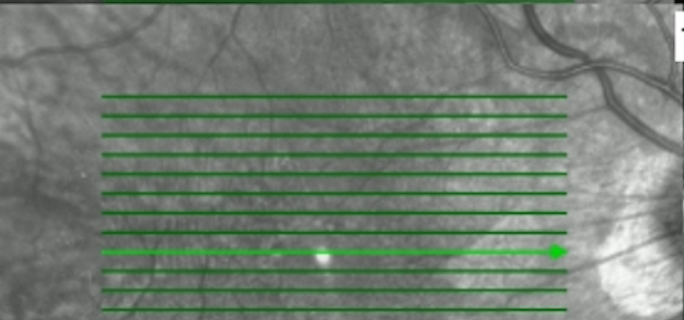
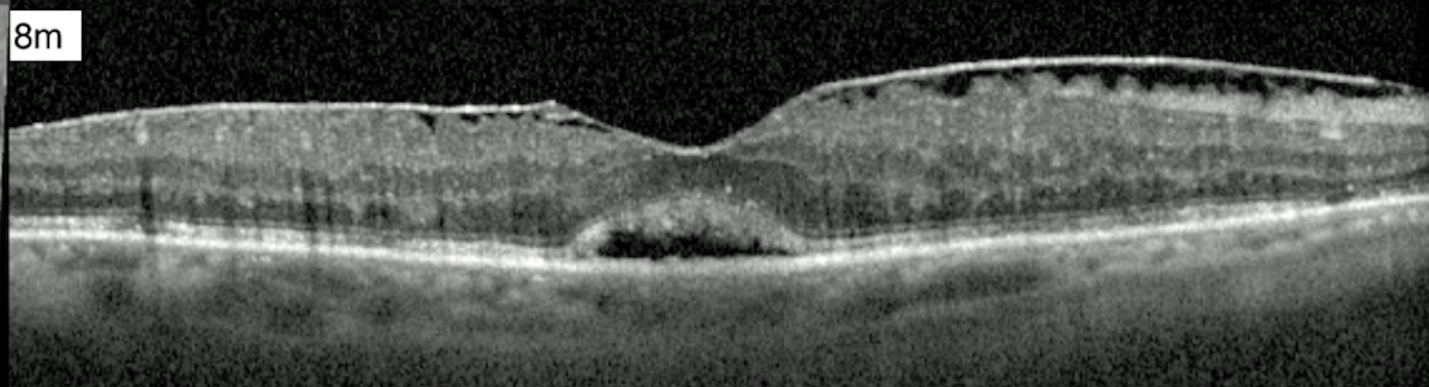
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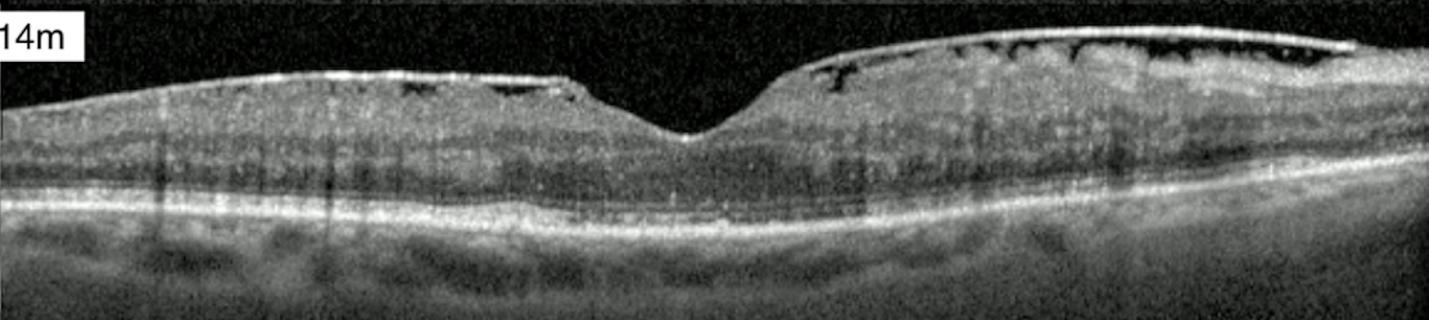
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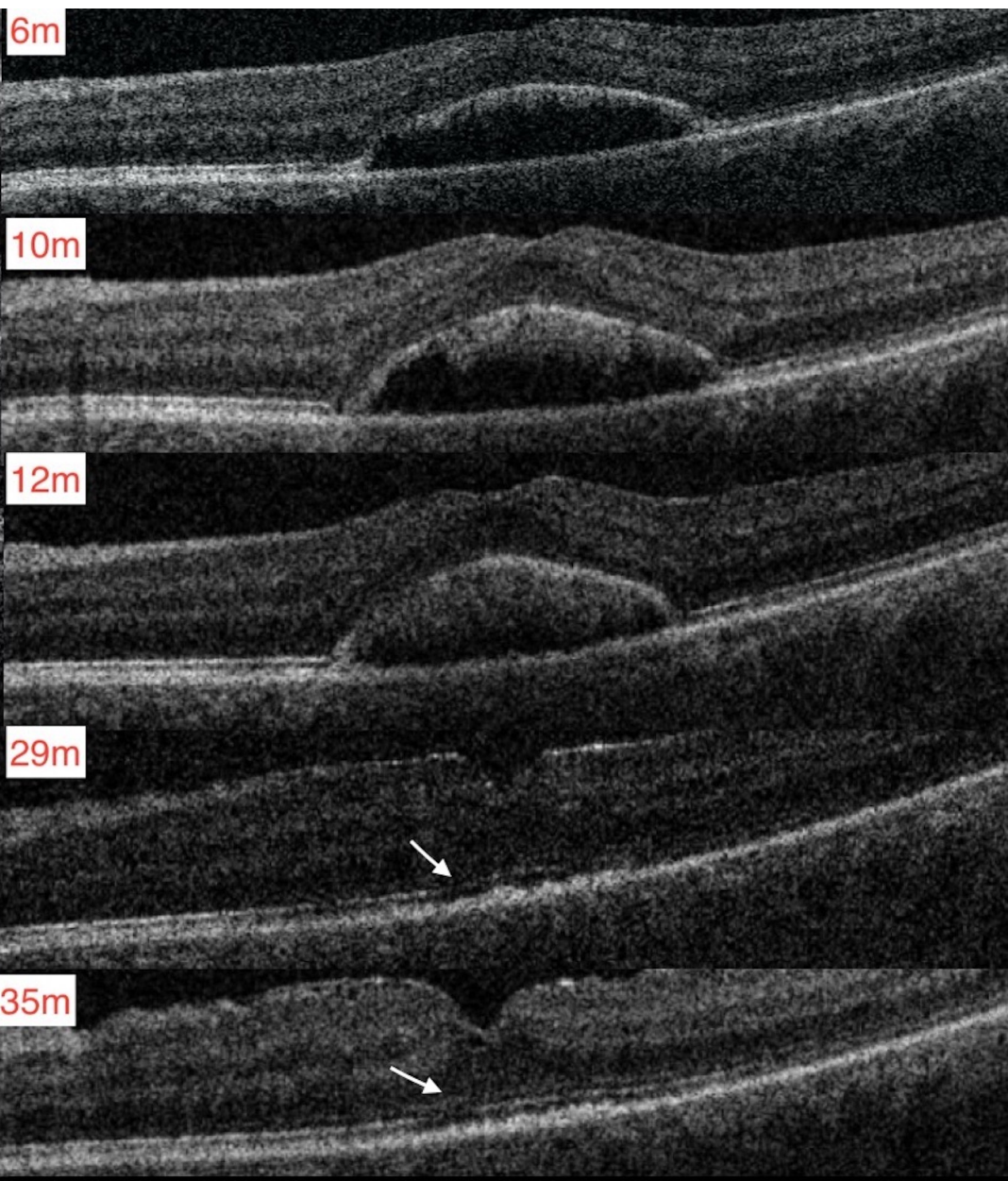
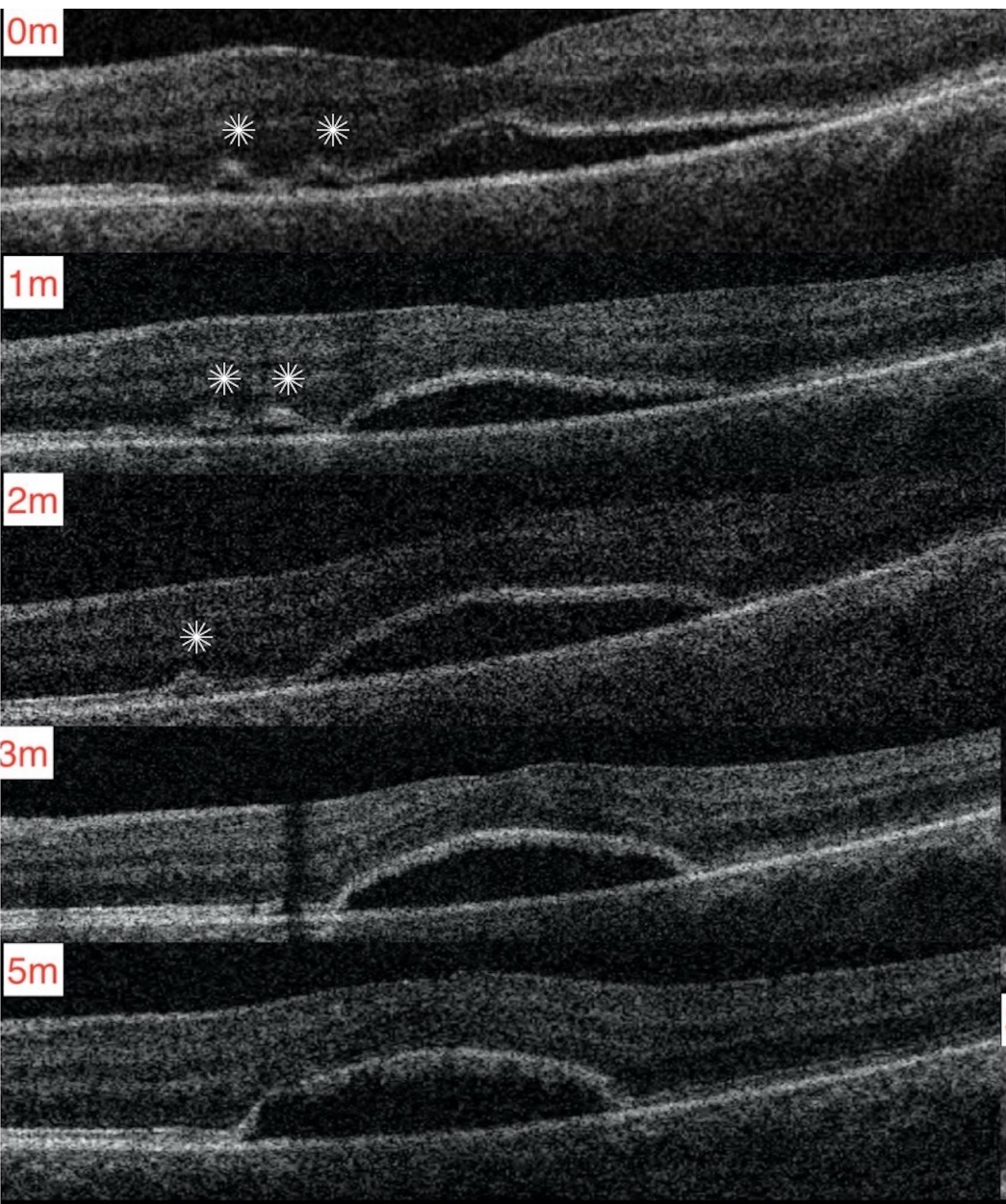


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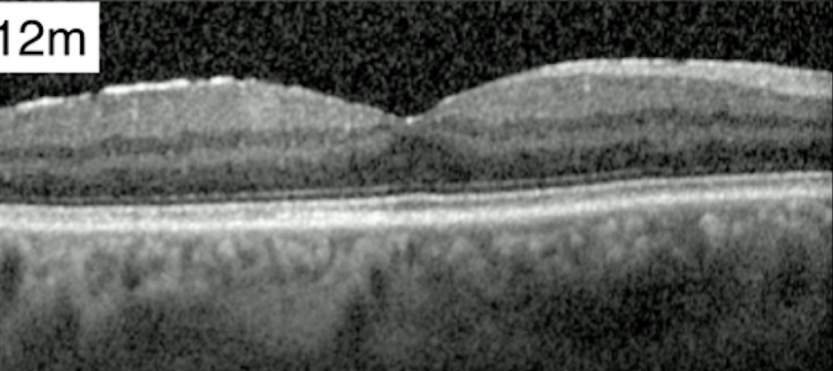
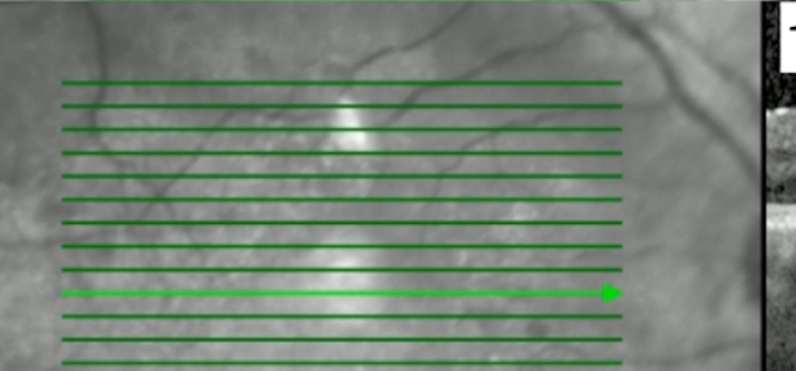
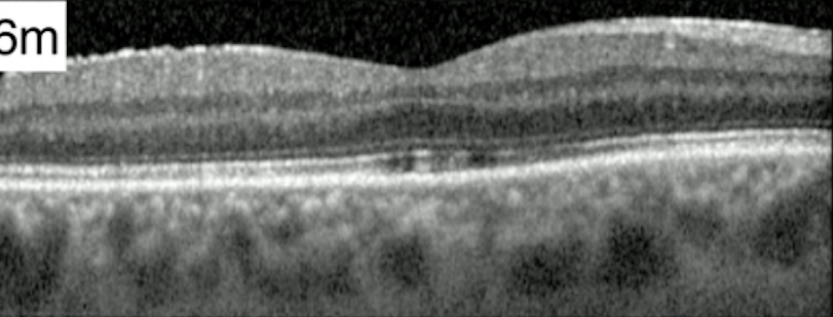
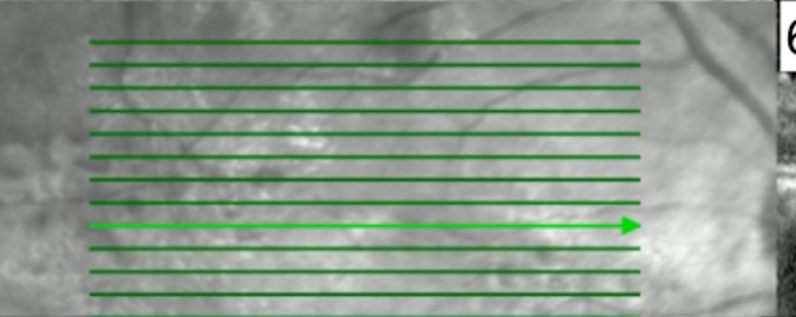
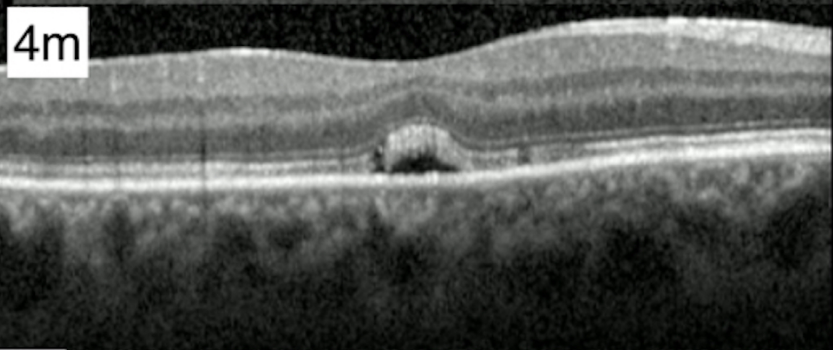
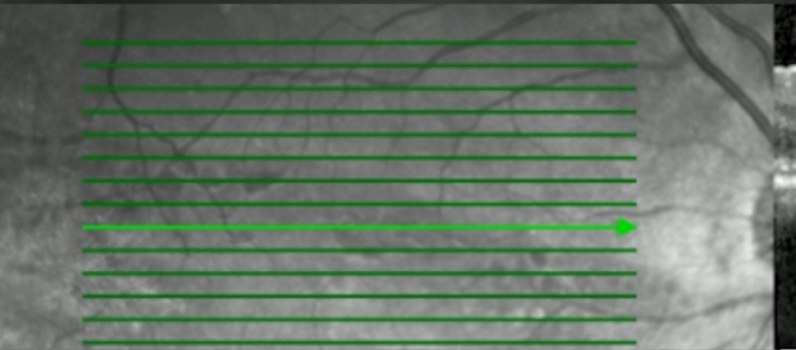
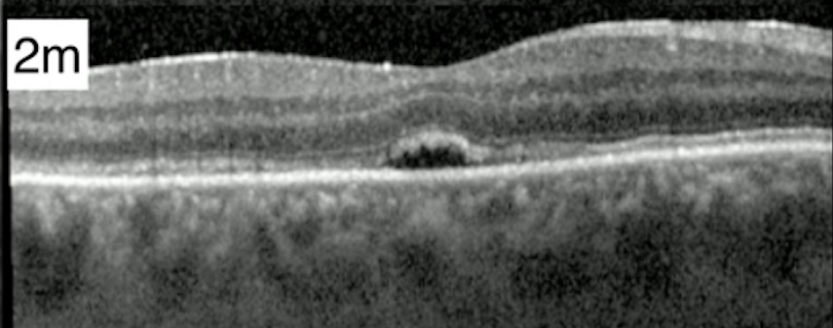
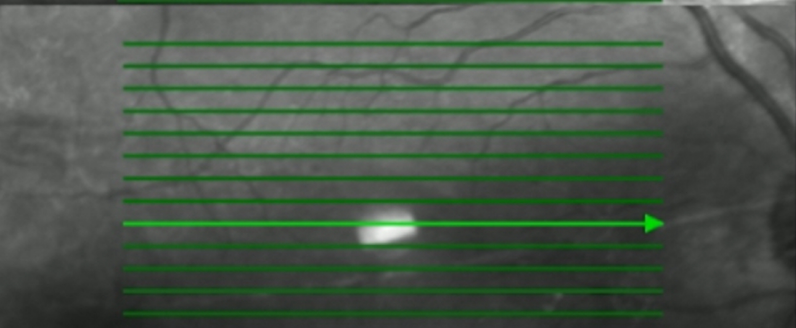
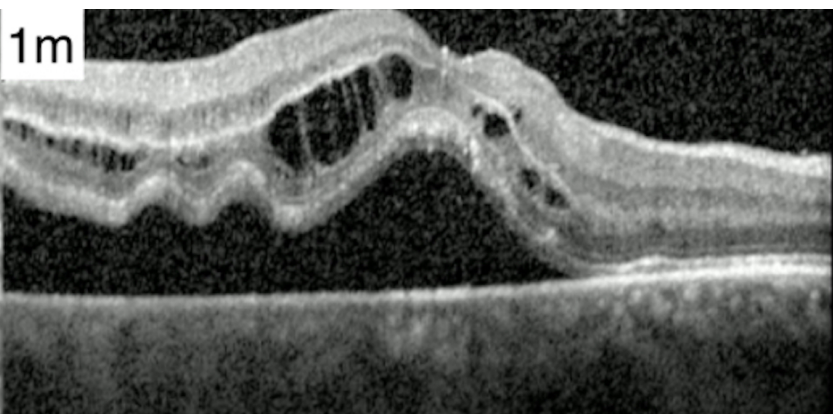
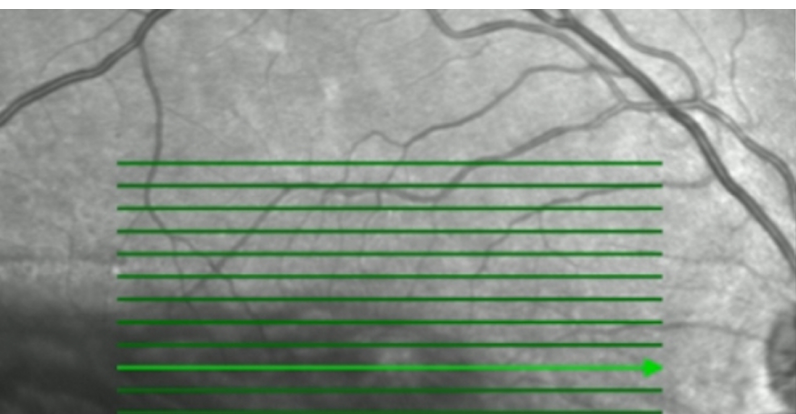


14m









- 1 Table 1- Factors involved in delayed absorption of SRF after RRD repair (Asterisk  
 2 represents a significant correlation; p-value was calculated using one-way ANOVA or  
 3 Chi square)

	Focal bleb	Multifocal blebs	Diffuse bleb	Total	p-value
Gender M:F	20:9	13:22	22:17	55:48	0.035*
Age (year)	59.2±11.5	51.6±16.1	48.7±15.5	52.7±15.2	0.016*
Caucasian Yes:No	27:2	32:3	35:4	94:9	0.89
Diopter	-2.0±3.1	-2.4±2.8	-2.8±3.3	-2.5±3.1	0.62
Phakia:Pseudophakia	23:6	31:4	36:3	90:13	0.27
No. Retinal Tears	1.4±0.7	1.7±1.2	1.5±0.9	1.5±1.0	0.33
Superior Tears	13:14	25:10	22:17	60:41	0.16
Temporal Tears	19:8	24:11	30:9	63:28	0.70
Superior RRD	14:13	25:10	22:17	61:40	0.03*
Temporal RRD	22:5	25:10	32:7	81:22	0.48
No. clock hour RRD	5.1±1.6	5.5±2.0	5.2±1.6	5.2±1.8	0.68
Macula-off RRD Yes:No	25:4	31:4	31:8	87:16	0.53
Duration RRD (days)	12.6±31.3	23.2±32.2	44.9±118.4	28.9±78.7	0.25
Scleral Buckle	4	14	21	39	0.023*
PPV	16	12	12	40	
Scleral Buckle PPV	8	6	3	17	
Pneumatic retinopexy	1	3	3	7	

Drainage of subretinal fluid or intravitreal tamponade Yes:No	22:7	27:8	25:14	74:29	0.39
Gas injection intraoperatively Yes:No	21:8	24:11	22:17	67:36	0.34
Prone position after surgery Yes:No	15:14	17:18	15:24	47:56	0.51
Medical therapy for SRF Yes:No	5:24	9:26	6:33	20:83	0.50
SRF resolution time (months)	10.1±6.4	12.4±5.7	11.0±6.9	11.2±6.4	0.34
EZ reformation time (months)	10.8±6.0	11.9±5.0	12.5±8.8	11.7±6.9	0.60
Initial BCVA (log MAR) (1 month after surgery)	0.99±0.84	1.13±0.80	1.10±0.97	1.08±0.87	0.76
Final BCVA (log MAR)	0.23±0.28	0.18±0.23	0.22±0.21	0.21±0.24	0.70
Follow-up (months)	26.1±23.1	24.3±22.9	25.7±22.5	25.4±23.1	0.96

- 1 Table 2- Multivariate analysis of variables related to anatomic and visual outcome  
 2 (Asterisk represents significant or near significant correlations; values represent  
 3 Odds Ratio (OR) followed by 95% confidence interval (CI); BCVA are expressed in  
 4 log MAR.

	Final BCVA	SRF resolution time	EZ restoration time
Age	OR=1.16 (95% CI 0.53-2.55) P=0.013*	P=0.60	P=0.44
No. retinal tears	P=0.84	P=0.87	OR=0.67 (95%CI 0.29-1.52) p=0.030*
RRD duration	OR=0.99 (95%CI 0.43-2.27) P=0.046*	P=0.12	P=0.90
Macula-off RRD	P=0.20	P=0.52	OR=0.26 (95%CI 0.08-0.88) P=0.056*
Prone position after surgery	P=0.34	OR=1.32 (95%CI 0.56-3.11) P=0.070*	P=0.20
Initial BCVA (1 month after surgery)	OR=3.28 (95%CI 1.44-7.47) P=0.022*	P=0.80	P=0.88
Final BCVA		OR=0.46 (95%CI 0.21-1.05) P=0.049*	OR=0.58 (95%CI 0.26-1.30) P=0.037*
SRF resolution time	OR=0.46 (95%CI 0.21-1.05) P=0.049*		P<0.001*

1 Table 3- Literature review of residual SRF after retinal surgery for RRD (SB=scleral buckle; PPV=pars plana vitrectomy;  
 2 SBPPV=scleral buckle combined with pars plana vitrectomy; G=intravitreal gas injection; Drainage=Drainage of subretinal fluid  
 3 during surgery; tamponade=use of intraocular tamponade to flatten the retina during surgery; F=focal group; M=multifocal group;  
 4 D=diffuse group; BCVA= best-corrected visual acuity in Log MAR.

5

Author (first)	No. cases	Male %	Age	High myopia	Phakia	No. Tears	Superior Tears	Superior RRD	Clock hour RRD	Macula-off RRD	Duration RRD (days)	SB PPV G SBPPV	Drainage OR tamponade	SRF resolution (months)	Initial BCVA	Final BCVA	Follow-up (months)	SRF type F,M,D
Long [3]	28									100%		SB100%						
Woo [16]	42	51.30 %	39±29	35.90 %						100%	12±17	SB100%	7.70%	8.6±4.5	1.16±0.77	0.18±0.19	20±12	F33.3 % D66.7 %
Benson [26]	54											SB100%			0.3			F24 % M27.8 % D48.1 %
Fu [6]	49	53.10 %	43.5±10.2	46.90 %	87.80 %	1.5±0.54			6.9±2.2	100%	14.8±12.3	SB100%	10.20%	13.2±10.0	1.25±0.30			F55.1 % M18.4 % D26.5 %
Desatnik [17]	7				100%	1.6			5.6	57%		G100%	0%	18.9	0.3	0.18		
Kim JM [13]	18	61.10 %	40.4±18.0	44.40 %	77.80 %	1.9±1.2		77%	5.3±0.2	61.10 %		SB83.3% PPV16.7%	66.70%		0.37±0.51	0.09±0.14		
Kim Y-K [10]	40	60%	36.6±20.2	27.90 %	97.50 %	2.1±1.4	65%		5.5±2.1	87.50 %	13.9±24.6	SB70% PPV30%		13.1±6.1	1.13±0.83	0.21±0.34	15.4±9.1	
Kang [7]	11	54.50 %	51.2±13.2			1.7±0.8			6.3±2.7		11.8	SB100%		4.7±3.4	0.29±0.35	0.17±0.19	17.0±7.2	

Hagimura [15]	7								100%		SB100%							F57.1 % D42.9 %
Ricker [27]	37	67.60 %	55±14		78%			5.3±1.6	97%	6.1±5.6	SB100%	94%	8	1.10±0.94				
Mimouni [12]	23	56.50 %	47.8±18.7	65.20 %	87%	1.3±1.1		69.60%	91.30 %	7.6±8.8	PPV87% SBPPV13%	43.50%	5.9±3.7	1.15±0.99				
Feo [18]	23	52.20 %	43.6±16.5	26.10 %	100%	1.7±1.0		34.70%	5.7	100%	4.3±2.6	SB100%	13.04%	0.94±0.59	0.22±0.16	14.9±7.5		
Wang [8]	28	57.10 %	29.8±8.3							100%	12.1±6.8	SB100%	100%	6.3±2.3	0.35±0.27	0.30±0.23	28.9±3.4	F17.9 % D82.1 %
Wolfensberger [25]	6								100%	7.4±6.0	SB100%			1.3±0.8	0.13±0.17			
Gharbiya [14]	40	57.50 %	57.2±15.5		75%			6.6±2.1	100%		SB100%	100%	7.8±4.4					
Gibran [20]	22	81.80 %	64		90%					6	SB100%	77.20%		1	0.4	18		
Otsuka [21]	8	62.50 %	56.9±11.8	20.00 %			50%		87%	8.1±6.9	SBPPV100 %	62.50%		0.05±0.07				
Kobayashi [28]	15	66.70 %	43.2±16.9	26.70 %				40%	5.2±1.9	100%	13.1±13.4	SB86.7% PPV13.3%	73.30%	0.53±0.38	0.15±0.23	12		
Mansour (current study)	103	53.40 %	52.7±15.2	12.90 %	87%	1.5±1.0	58%	59%	5.2±1.8	84%	28.9±78.7	SB37.9% PPV38.8% SBPPV16.5% G6.8%	71%	11.2±6.4	1.08±0.87	0.21±0.24	25.4±23.1	F28.2 % M35.0 % D37.9 %
Total	561	57.90 %	47.3±18.6	29.90 %	87%	1.66±1.04	59%	57%	5.7±2.0	92.60 %	15.2±43.6	SB78.8% PPV13.7% SBPPV5.0% G2.5%	59%	9.77±6.68	0.76±0.79	0.20±0.24	21.1±16.1	F30.7 % M24.7 % D44.5 %