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To Drain or not to Drain? The Place of Drainage of Sub-retinal Fluid in Retinal Re-attachment Surgery

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Introduction: A rhegmatogenous retinal detachment occurs when fluid seeps into the sub retinal space through a discontinuity or a break in the retina. Some Ophthalmologists feel that unless the sub retinal fluid (SRF) is externally drained the retina will not flatten despite an adequate buckling procedure. **Aim:** To test the hypothesis that 'Routine drainage of sub-retinal fluid is not essential for the anatomic re-attachment of the retina' **Study Design:** Retrospective and consecutive **Method:** We conducted a retrospective study of 161 eyes of 161 patients who underwent conventional retinal re-attachment procedure. The end point was successful anatomical retinal re-attachment. **Results:** Anatomic re-attachment of the retina was achieved in 88% of eyes where the SRF was drained and 85% where SRF was not drained. Per operative complications were encountered in 6 out of 65 eyes (9%) where SRF was drained and 2 out 95 eyes (2%) where SRF was not drained. **Conclusion:** Routine drainage of SRF is not essential for successful retinal re-attachment.