

## The Risk of New Retinal breaks following symptomatic Posterior Vitreous Detachment

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**Purpose of Study:** The posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) is sometimes associated with sight threatening retinal tears or retinal detachment. The aim of the study was to find the frequency of retinal breaks developing within six weeks of an isolated posterior vitreous detachment. **Materials and Methods:** This study was carried out between January 2000 and June 2001. Recruitment of patients was from Eye Out-patients of the Services Hospital, Lahore. Only those patients were recruited who fulfilled the inclusion criteria. All the patients were examined by the same consultant and all of them were examined using slit lamp bio- microscopy and indirect ophthalmoscopy with scleral indentation. The patients with vision threatening retinal breaks at presentation were booked for treatment and the remainder were reviewed six weeks later. **Results:** A cohort of fifty four eyes (fifty four patients) was selected for this study, over a period of eighteen months. On presentation to the clinic, four patients had round holes anterior to the equator in the inferior retina, one patient had a horse shoe tear near to the equator and one patient had lattice degeneration inferiorly with multiple tiny breaks. At the second visit, one additional patient had two round holes anterior to the equator but in this patient the retina had been obscured by vitreous haemorrhage at the first visit. Another patient, developed rhegmatogenous retinal detachment. No patient in whom a full examination was possible at the first visit developed further retinal breaks. **Conclusion:** A full examination of the peripheral retina with three mirror contact lens and scleral indentation at the time of presentation must be done in all eyes with posterior vitreous detachment and presence of vitreous haemorrhage must arouse the suspicion of retinal breaks until proven otherwise.