

Pneumatic Retinopexy

Pneumatic retinopexy is the procedure to repair the detached retina with the use of a gas bubble.

Why it is performed

Pneumatic retinopexy is used to repair certain types of retinal detachments.

How to prepare

Eye drops will be used to enlarge patient's pupil and to freeze the front surface of the eye.

How it is performed

A special gas (C3F8) is placed into the vitreous cavity of the eye with a needle. The patient is instructed to keep his/her head in a certain position to ensure the gas bubble pushes the detached retina against the back wall of the retina to seal the tear.

Results

Pneumatic retinopexy is most effective for detachments located in the upper portion of the eye. It cannot be used or will not be effective for every retinal detachment. In some cases, a scleral reattachment surgical procedure will be necessary.

How it feels

The gas usually stays in the eye for 1 – 3 weeks. It will slowly disappear. Head positioning is required.

What the risks are

Positioning of the head is required during the period of time that the gas bubble is present in the eye. During this time airplane travel and travel to high altitudes must be avoided as the expansion of the gas can cause damage to the eye.