

Scleral Buckling

Scleral buckling is a surgical procedure to hold the retina against the sclera until scarring seals the tear. It also prevents fluid leakage which could cause further retinal detachment.

Why it is performed

Scleral buckling is used to reattach the retina if the break is very large or if the tear is in one location. It is also used to seal breaks in the retina.

How to prepare

Please follow the instructions provided by the clinic / hospital staff.

How it is performed

The surgeon first treats the retinal tear with cryotherapy. A piece of silicone plastic or a sponge is then sewn onto the outside wall of the eye (sclera) over the site of the tear. This pushes the sclera in toward the retinal tear and holds the retina against the sclera until the cryotherapy seals the tear. An encircling scleral buckle or band can also be used which involves placing the silicone band around the outside circumference of the eye. Occasionally the surgeon may place gas bubble or silicone oil into the vitreous cavity.

Results

Vision will be blurry postoperatively and may take weeks or months to improve.

How it feels

Postoperatively, the patient may experience some pain in the eye and will likely have blurry vision. If air or gas is used, the patient will be required to position in a face down position until the air or gas is absorbed from the eye and replaced by normal eye fluids.

What the risks are

Possible risk can include bleeding, infection, pain, retinal detachment, cataract, changes in vision, increases in the intraocular pressure of the eye or any unforeseen events.