

Case Report

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Delayed Retinal Tear Following Acute Posterior Vitreous Detachment

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Abstract

Retinal tears occurring more than one year after acute posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) are rare. However, patients with notable risk factors, such as myopia and lattice degeneration, and those aged <60 years require prolonged monitoring to prevent vision-threatening complications [1,2]. This case report presents a patient who developed a retinal tear 21 months after initial PVD, underscoring the importance of extended follow-up protocols.

Keywords: Floaters; Posterior Vitreous Detachment; Retinal Tear; Laser Retinopexy

Abbreviations: PVD: Posterior vitreous detachment

Introduction

The retinal tears are known to occur few weeks after PVD, in the present publication we report a case of delayed retinal tear formation following acute posterior vitreous detachment (PVD).

Case Report

Initial Presentation

On August 1, 2022, a myopic male patient (-1.75 diopters)

reported a 10-day history of floaters and flashes in the left eye. Examination following pupillary dilation revealed a posterior vitreous detachment with moderate vitreous hemorrhage. Retinal assessment showed a tear at the 1 o'clock position. Urgent argon laser retinopexy was performed without complications (Figure 1a & b) and a structured follow-up plan involving hemorrhage monitoring and three-monthly exams were initiated. complications, and a structured follow-up plan involving hemorrhage.

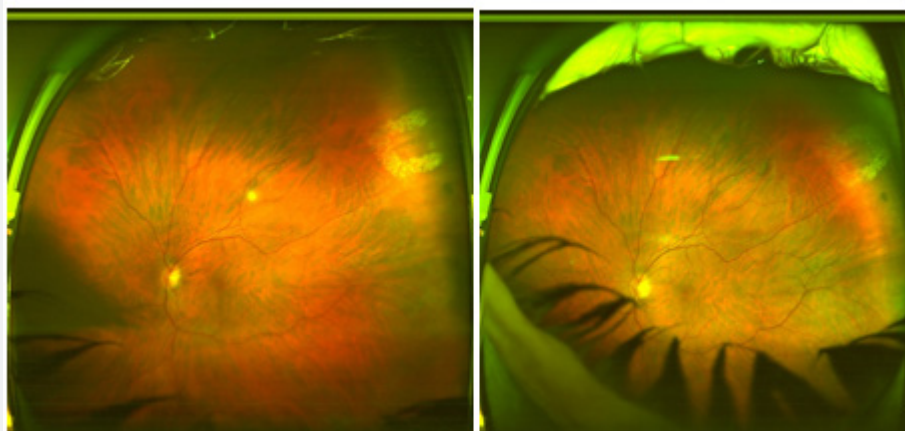


Figure 1: Laser retinopexy performed on the left eye around the retinal tear at the 1 o'clock position on August 1st (a) and 4th (b), 2022.

Disease Progression and Subsequent Events

- June 2023: While in France, the patient experienced posterior vitreous detachment in the right eye, complicated by retinal detachment.
- Pars-plana vitrectomy and gas injection were successfully performed.
- Follow-up in our department resumed after his return from France and continued until October 29, 2023.

- Consultation Gap: No ophthalmologic assessments occurred between October 2023 and April 2025, as the patient did not return during this period.

April 2025

On April 10, 2025, the patient presented with floaters in the left eye. Examination revealed a retinal tear at the 10 o'clock position. Immediate laser retinopexy was performed in our department to stabilize the condition (Figure 2).

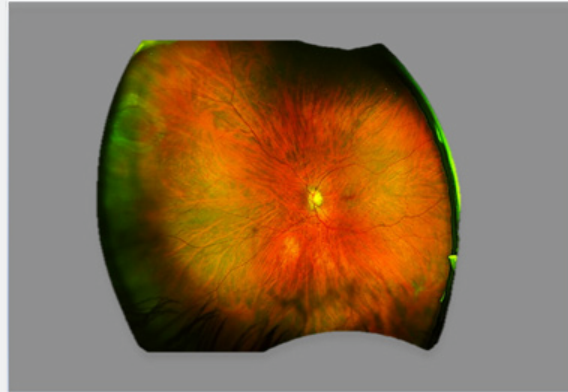


Figure 2: Laser retinopexy performed on the left eye around the retinal tear at 10 o'clock position on April 10th, 2025.

Discussion

Although retinal tears following acute PVD usually appear within weeks, delayed cases remain uncommon. However, such occurrences highlight the need for extended monitoring in high-risk patients [1-3].

- Risk Assessment: Patients with myopia, lattice degeneration, or those under 60 years require follow-up beyond standard guidelines.
- Long-Term Follow-up Protocols: Educating patients on symptom recognition and ensuring routine ophthalmic evaluations is essential.

Disclosure Statement:

There are no conflicts of interest to report for author.



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