

Idiopathic epiretinal membrane (ERM) is characterized by the growth of fibrocellular tissue on the internal limiting membrane (ILM). The ERM could range from a subtle cellophane-like film not causing any visual disturbance to significant contractile membranes with folds in the underlying and adjacent retina causing metamorphopsia and a decline in visual acuity. Vitrectomy with ERM removal is beneficial in improving visual acuity and foveal contour and is well accepted as the treatment for symptomatic macular pucker. However there is still debate whether the concurrent removal of the ILM peeling affords any additional benefit. Overall a review of the literature suggests that there is no difference in final visual acuity between ILM peeling vs non-ILM peeling. When comparing ERM recurrence ILM peeling may offer some benefit although many recurrences are not visually significant. While ILM peeling could ensure complete removal of the cortical vitreous and ERM, the use of ICG dye could have a deleterious effect. Therefore it still remains unclear whether removing the ILM during ERM surgery affords any additional benefit.

*Keywords:* macular pucker, epiretinal membrane, internal limiting membrane, pars plana vitrectomy.