

■ **Letters to the editor**

Anatomical and functional outcomes of surgery of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment

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Dear Editor,

I read the article entitled “Anatomical and functional outcomes of surgery of rhegmatogenous retinal detachment” by Sharma et al (2010) with great interest. It is the product of commendable effort by the authors. However, the authors could have used this opportunity to evaluate the various factors which influence the visual recovery after retinal detachment surgery, such as duration of detachment, extent of retinal detachment and PVR changes.

The authors have mentioned that the duration of symptoms ranged from 1 to 210 days. It has been generally observed that retinal detachments which are of more than six months duration carry a worse functional prognosis (Tani et al 1981, Burton 1982). The authors could have analyzed the visual recovery vis a vis the duration of detachment.

The extent of retinal detachment also has an important bearing in the final outcome of visual acuity. Tani et al (1981) observed that in eyes with total detachment, only 7 % of eyes had the final visual acuity of 6/15 or better, while in eyes with 2 quadrants involved, 47 % had the final visual acuity of 6/15 or better.

The presence of proliferative vitreoretinopathy is considered a bad prognostic factor after a successful retinal surgery. Tani et al (1981) observed that in the presence of PVR changes only 28 % had the final visual acuity of 6/15 or better. In contrast, 43 % of eyes without PVR changes had the final visual acuity of 6/15 or better.

The authors could have also mentioned the role of complications, if any, in the deterioration of visual acuity after surgery.

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