

Case Study 8

Vitreous Syneresis

BG is a 34-year-old man who noted a “shape like a half-circle” in his vision that bothered him constantly. He related this symptom to his primary care doctor who ordered an MRI scan to eliminate intracranial pathology. The scan was normal, and the patient was referred to an ophthalmologist. Examination was unremarkable with visual acuity in both eyes of 20/20 and a normal fundus examination. A posterior vitreous detachment was not detected. B-scan demonstrated a small moderately reflective mobile surface in the vitreous that was consistent with condensation and syneresis (Fig. 1). This was demonstrated to the patient, and he was given a copy of a photo for his records. He expressed great relief that “there was nothing seriously wrong with the vision” and soon stopped obsessing about the floater.

Some patients can develop a retinal detachment with no or minimal symptoms of a PVD. They may describe a “curved surface or shape” in the peripheral visual field of one eye. If it is a very shallow detachment, ophthalmoscopic examination may not detect it, whereas B-scan is a very sensitive tool

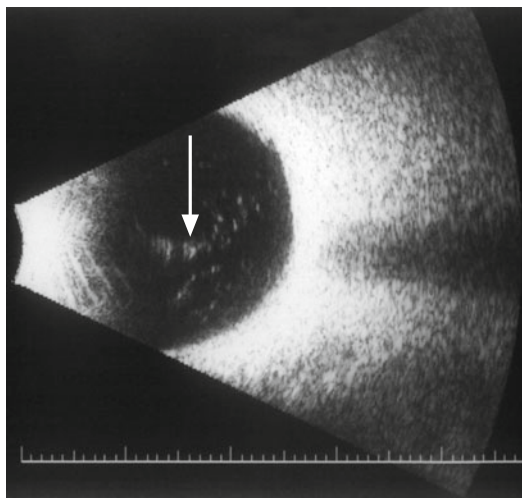


FIG. 1 B-scan of vitreous condensation and syneresis (*small arrow*)

with a high sensitivity level to even a slight separation of the retina from the underlying retinal pigment epithelium.