

Pars plana vitrectomy (PPV) is a surgical procedure that involves removal of vitreous gel from the eye. The procedure derives its name from the fact that vitreous is removed (i.e. vitreous + ectomy = removal of vitreous) and the instruments are introduced into the eye through the pars plana. PPV was first introduced in 1972, when Machemer invented a single port, multifunctional 17-gauge cutter called the vitreous infusion suction cutter (VISC). PPV was a major advance because for the first time it allowed for the removal of vitreous through a closed system, rather than through an open sky technique. In 1975, O'Malley and Heintz described the use of a 20-gauge 3 port system. 20-gauge 3 port PPV became the gold standard and remained so for at least 3 decades. Over the past several years, the development of small incision transconjunctival, sutureless PPV has led to a major shift in how many diseases are treated in the operating room. In 2002 Fujii et al introduced the modern 25-gauge PPV system while Eckhart endorsed 23-gauge PPV in 2003 ¹⁾.

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http://eyewiki.aao.org/Pars_Plana_Vitreotomy

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:59**

