Surgically induced cystoid macular edema (SICME) is a well-known complication that can occur after various types of intra-ocular surgery (Irvine-Gass syndrome). However there are few articles documenting SICME incidence following pars plana vitrectomy (PPV).

In our experience we have noted an incidence of SICME of 12.8% after PPV and of 16.4% after PPV combined with cataract surgery in eyes with Epiretinal Membrane (ERM) (study under review).

The most common anti-inflammatory topical therapies can often give complete resolution of SICME secondary to anterior segment surgery. However, SICME secondary to pars plana vitrectomy becomes chronic and refractory to treatment. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of the intra-vitreal implant of Dexamethasone 0.7 mg (Ozurdex, Allergan, Irvine, Calif, USA) (IVO) for the treatment of refractory SICME after PPV and ERM peeling.

Six eyes of 5 patients, affected by refractory SICME, had undergone IVO. Best corrected visual acuity (BCVA), intraocular pressure and fundus examination were performed at baseline and every month after IVO. Central foveal thickness (CFT) and macular morphology were studied with optical coherence tomography every month up during the six months follow-up.

The mean duration of SICME was 21.7±18.86 months. Mean pre-operative ETDRS BCVA was 0.62±0.35 (0.70-1). Mean pre-operative CFT was 655±173 (445-800 microns). At the last control, mean post-operative BCVA was 0.4±0.37, (1-0) and mean post-operative CFT was 279 ±78 (180-350 microns). There was a recurrence of SICME more than six months after IVO. IVO for the treatment of SICME has shown to be effective and safe.