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Setting Up for Vitrectomy How to Get Started

The first step of nearly every retina surgery is vitrectomy, removing the vitreous gel. By the end of your fellowship, basic vitrectomy will feel like tying your shoes. It becomes second nature, so that you don't really have to think about the setup or your movements. Nevertheless, there are some key points to keep in mind when you are first beginning that will make it easier for you early on.

PREOPERATIVE EXAMINATION AND CLEARANCE

Although this book is about surgery, we absolutely have to briefly discuss the preoperative examination and preoperative planning before moving into the operating room. A complete and careful eye exam is important. In the modern era of vitrectomy with wide-angle viewing, it is easy to get lazy with the in-office exam and plan to more thoroughly examine the eye at the time of vitrectomy. A good office exam, however, can make an important impact on the surgical approach you choose for your patient.