Vitreoretinal Interface Abnormalities
Retinal Detachment

- **Is a sight threatening condition** with an incidence of 1 in 10'000 people.

- **Lattice degeneration** is considered the most important peripheral retinal degeneration process that predisposes to a **rhegmatogenous retinal detachment**.

- Normally, the retinal pigment epithelium is able to maintain adhesion with the overlying neurosensory retina through a variety of mechanisms: active transport of subretinal fluid and interdigitation of outer segments and the retinal pigment epithelium microvilli.

- **Retinal detachment** occurs when subretinal fluid accumulates between the neurosensory retina and the retinal pigment epithelium. This process can occur in three ways:
  - **a break in the retina** allowing vitreous to directly enter the subretinal space. This is called a **rhegmatogenous retinal detachment** (often due to retinal tears associated with posterior vitreous detachment or trauma).
  - **proliferative membranes** on the surface of the retina or vitreous membranes can pull on the neurosensory retina causing physical separation between the neurosensory retina and retinal pigment epithelium. This is called a **traction retinal detachment**.
  - **accumulation of subretinal fluid** due to inflammatory mediators or exudation of fluid from a mass lesion. This is known as a **serous or exudative retinal detachment**.