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**Shock wave propagation along the central retinal blood vessels.** (English) Zbl 1437.76057  
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Summary: Retinal haemorrhage is often observed following brain injury. The retinal circulation is supplied (drained) by the central retinal artery (vein) which enters (leaves) the eye through the optic nerve at the optic disc; these vessels penetrate the nerve immediately after passing through a region of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). We consider a theoretical model for the blood flow in the central retinal vessels, treating each as multi-region collapsible tubes, where we examine how a sudden change in CSF pressure (mimicking an injury) drives a large amplitude pressure perturbation towards the eye. In some cases, this wave can steepen to form a shock. We show that the region immediately proximal to the eye (within the optic nerve where the vessels are strongly confined by the nerve fibres) can significantly reduce the amplitude of the pressure wave transmitted into the eye. When the length of this region is consistent with clinical measurements, the CSF pressure perturbation generates a wave of significantly lower amplitude than the input, protecting the eye from damage. We construct an analytical framework to explain this observation, showing that repeated rapid propagation and reflection of waves along the confined section of the vessel distributes the perturbation over a longer lengthscale.

**MSC:**

- 76Z05 Physiological flows
- 92C35 Physiological flow
- 76L05 Shock waves and blast waves in fluid mechanics

**Keywords:**

retinal haemorrhage; retinal blood flow; shock waves; elastic jumps

**Full Text:** [DOI](#)

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