

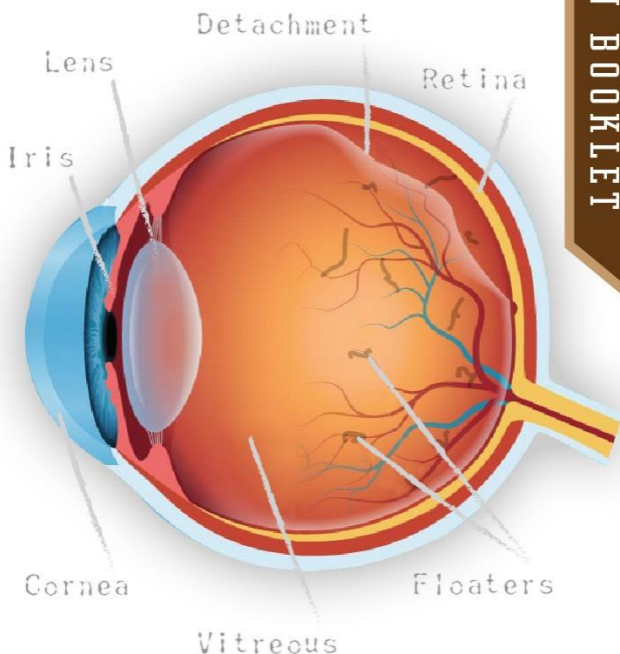
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TUN HUSSEIN ONN NATIONAL EYE HOSPITAL

Your Vision Matters

PATIENT INFORMATION BOOKLET

FLOATERS & FLASHES

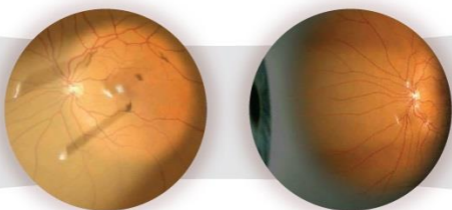


“ 20% of cases with **floaters & flashes** develop serious eye problems ”

What are *Floaters*?

Small specks or clouds moving in your field of vision. Floaters are actually tiny clumps of gel or cell jelly-like fluid that fills the inside of your eye.

While these objects look like they are in front of your eye, they are actually floating inside. What you see are the shadow they cast on the retina.



Floaters have different shapes

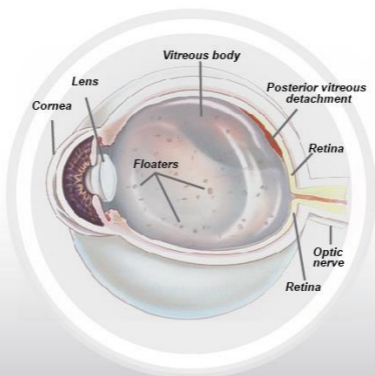
👁 Little dots

👁 Clouds

👁 Lines

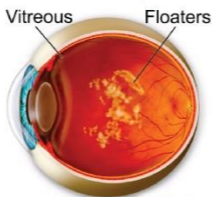
👁 Circles

👁 Cobwebs



What Causes Floaters ?

When people reach middle age, the vitreous gel may start to liquefy or shrink, forming clumps or strands inside the eye. The vitreous gel pulls away from the back of the wall of the eye, causing a posterior vitreous detachment.



Are Floaters ever serious ?

In 80% of cases, floaters are harmless. In 20% of cases, serious causes of floaters such as retinal holes or tears and bleeding into the vitreous may occur.

The retina can tear if the liquefying vitreous gel pulls away from the wall of the eye. This may cause a small amount of bleeding. A torn retina is always a serious problem. It can lead to retinal detachment and blindness if left untreated. A retinal tear needs to be sealed with laser treatment as soon as possible.

What are Flashes ?

Flashes are sensations of light, when no light is really there. They may appear as many tiny bright light (like "sparkles") or like flashes of lighting.

Flashes may occur when the vitreous jelly pulls on the retina where it is attached. These flashes usually last for only a second or so, but typically occur repeatedly and will disappear after the gel is released from its attachment, in which case, floaters will appear.

They may be more obvious with eye movement or against bright lights.

Migraine

Some people experience flashes of light that appear as jagged lines or “heat waves” in both eyes, often lasting 10-20 minutes. These flashes are usually caused by a spasm of blood vessels in the brain, which is called migraine.

If the headache follows the flashes, it is called a migraine headache. However jagged lines or “head waves” can occur without a headache. In this case, the light flashes are called ophthalmic migraine, or migraine without headache.

Signs and Symptoms

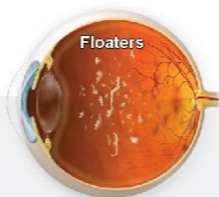
Black spots or “cob webs” that seem to float in the vision in a cluster or alone. Spots that move or remain suspended in one place. Flickering or flashing lights that are most prominent when looking at a bright background like a clear blue sky.

Symptoms that may indicate a more serious problem:

- 👁️ Sudden decrease of vision along with floaters & flashes.
- 👁️ Veil or curtain that obstructs part or all of the vision
- 👁️ Sudden increase in the number of floaters.

Treatment

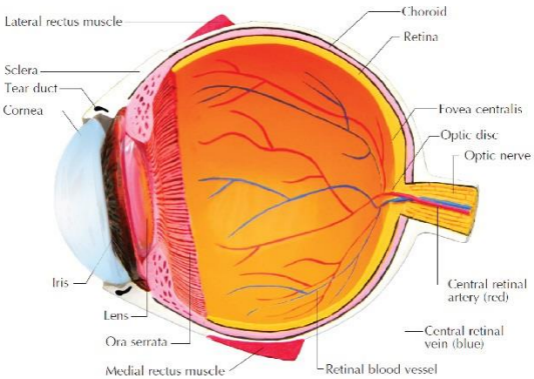
- 01 Floaters & flashes caused by vitreous separating from the retina are a normal part of ageing and should subside within a few weeks or months.
- 02 They are usually harmless and fade over time. When everyday floaters are bothering you, try to look up and down and from side to side. This stirs the vitreous fluid in your eyes, moving floaters away from your line of vision.
- 03 Treatment is usually not necessary. But if the floaters are troublesome, vitreolysis or vitrectomy can be considered as treatment.



Floaters as seen by patients



The Human Eye



LOCATION MAP



Address:

The Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital
Lot 2, Lorong Utara B, 46200 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Operating Hours:

Monday to Friday: 8.30AM - 5.00PM
Saturday: 8.30AM - 1.00PM
Closed on Sunday & Public Holiday
** 24-hour emergency eye clinic available **

Contact Us:

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