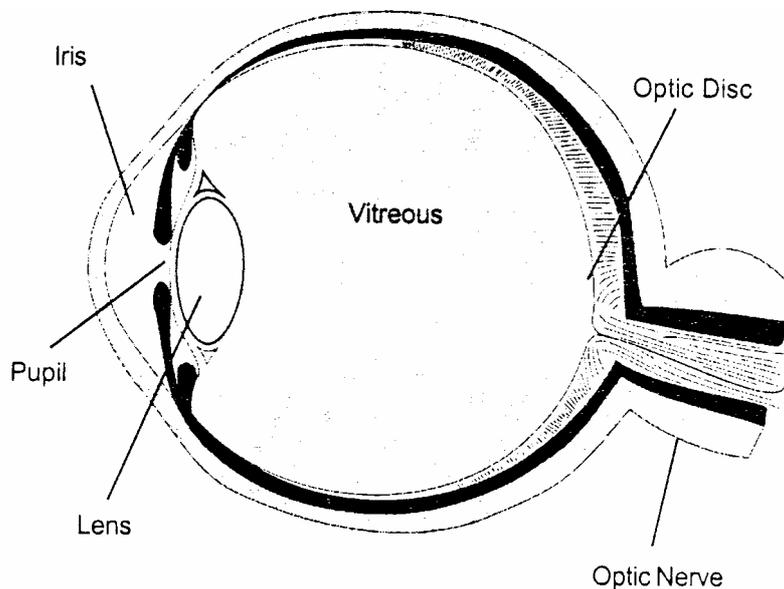


Ophthalmology

Posterior vitreous detachment

Your eye

The back of the eye is filled with a jelly like substance called vitreous. This is normally transparent.



A natural ageing process causes the vitreous to collapse in some individuals. When this occurs it is usually quite sudden causing 'floaters' or 'cobwebs' to appear in the vision. The patient will often notice an associated flashing light at the side of the vision. The light may be quite dim so that it is seen most easily in the dusk or dark. Some patients do not notice the flashing light.

When the vitreous has separated from the retina it is known as a posterior vitreous detachment.

Will it affect my vision?

The floater can be annoying but they are harmless. They usually persist but become less noticeable with time as they sink within the eye under gravity and move further away from the retina. The flashing light will usually subside over 4 to 12 weeks, but in some patients it may take a little longer.

What treatment will be needed?

No treatment is needed for a posterior vitreous detachment.

What complications could occur?

Occasionally as the vitreous separates it can tear the retina. This may cause a retinal detachment or even some bleeding within the eye. This complication is more likely in short sighted people. The ophthalmologist who examined you will have ensured that there is no retinal tear or retinal detachment present at the moment.

Retinal detachment and vitreous haemorrhage (bleeding into the vitreous) are potentially blinding conditions. However timely treatment and surgery is effective in over 95% of cases.

What are the symptoms of retinal detachment?

The symptoms are:

- Loss of vision (often at the side of your vision)
- A shower of floaters followed by a growing dark shadow

If you experience these symptoms please contact your GP immediately.

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format: 01223 216032 or patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk

Potete chiedere di ottenere queste informazioni in altre lingue, in stampato grande o in audiocassetta.

Italian

若你需要本信息的繁體中文、大字體或音訊格式的版本，請要求索取。

Cantonese

तमने आ माळिती बीछ भाषाओमां, मोटा अक्षरोमां अथवा सांभजी शकाय जेवा माध्यम (ओडीओ डोमेट)मां जेठती छोय तो कृपा करीने पूछो.

Gujarati

تکایہ پرسیار بکہ نہ گہر نہ وزانیاریہت دہوی بہ زمانیکی تر . بہ بیٹی گہورہ یانیش بہ شیوہی دہنگ

Kurdish

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات دوسری زبانوں میں، بڑے الفاظ کی اشاعت میں یا آڈیو ٹیپ پر درکار ہوں تو براۓ مہربانی اس کیلئے درخواست کریں۔

Urdu



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Document history

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