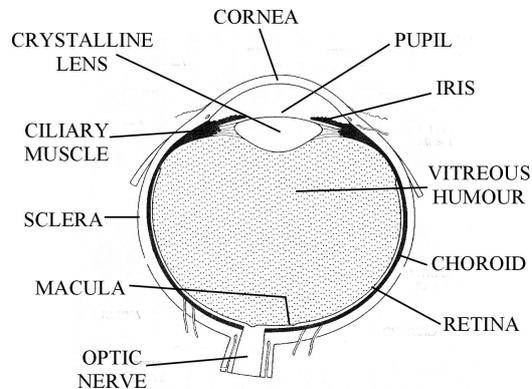


flashes and floaters



What Are Floaters?

Floaters are generally seen as small grey wisps floating in front of the vision. They are usually seen more easily against a pale background, and are sometimes described as looking like tadpoles or small spiders.

What Causes Them?

Even normal, healthy eyes can have floaters – they are just remnants left inside the eye from before birth. They can become more visible as the eye gets older, and are usually quite benign.

What Causes Flashes?

As you get older the jelly inside the eye can shrink slightly, which can then tug on the retina (the light-sensitive layer inside the eye).

This tugging can then cause the flashes. Flashes can also be seen if the retina tears, which can cause a retinal detachment.

Should I be Concerned?

Everyone has floaters, so usually they are quite normal. But if they are seen as a sudden shower of floaters like soot, particularly if accompanied by flashes in the side of the vision, or a large floater in the middle of your vision, or a shadow or curtain in the vision, you should have them investigated straight away, as these can be signs of a retinal tear. This can be done by an optometrist or at Accident & Emergency.

What Causes the Retina to Detach?

Retinal detachment is usually caused by injury, or shrinking of the jelly inside the eye. People who are very short-sighted are more at risk, but it can happen to anyone.

Look out for:

- Sudden showers of floaters or floaters getting worse**
- flashes in the vision, especially down the side**
- shadows in the vision like a veil or lace curtain**
- clouds of floaters like soot**
- any sudden loss of vision**

**IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS,
SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE URGENTLY.**

Is it Serious?

The retina is the light-sensitive part of the eye, and if it becomes detached this can lead to permanent loss of vision, or even blindness. This is why if you see a shower of floaters, flashes or shadows in the vision, you should seek advice urgently.

Can a Retinal Detachment be Treated?

If found early, a retinal tear or small detachment can often be treated with laser. But if the detachment is larger, you will probably need surgery. The operation may restore most of the vision, but the vision may not fully recover.

If you experience any worrying symptoms and are unable to contact the practice for advice from your Optometrist then contact the emergency department of your local hospital.

eye deal opticians
17 paradise place
goole
dn14 5dl
01405 767705
eyedealexam@gmail.com