

Patient Information – Flashes and Floaters

Flashes and Floaters

The 'Floaters' / 'Cobwebs' you see can be the dark shadows of floating particles of the vitreous gel (Jelly in the eye) which normally fills the back of the eye. The vitreous is attached to the sensitive layer of the eye called the Retina. As the vitreous becomes loose (Posterior Vitreous Detachment) it pulls on the sensitive retina sometimes causing a sensation of 'Flashes of Light'. The floaters will gradually get less noticeable. These usually do not cause any problems and no treatment is required. The flashes should also settle.

Warning signs

- Larger Floaters
- Sudden shower of Floaters
- Persisting Flashes of light
- A curtain or shadow appearing
- Loss of your vision

These could indicate a serious eye problem such as a, retinal hole, retinal tear, retinal detachment or a vitreous haemorrhage (bleed in the gel of the eye) and can cause severe loss of vision. If your symptoms of Flashes and / or Floaters persist, worsen or change character you should telephone the Eye Clinic for urgent advice on.

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