

How are floaters treated ?

Anyone who has a sudden onset of floaters needs to be checked by an eye doctor. Once your eye doctor rules out any serious conditions and if the floaters are the only problem, no treatment is usually required. On rare occasions, floaters can be so dense and numerous that they significantly affect vision. In these cases, a vitrectomy, a surgical procedure that removes floaters may be desired. A vitrectomy removes the vitreous gel, along with its floating debris, from the eye. As with any operation, there are benefits and risks which should be considered, which your eye doctor will explain to you.



A simulation of how floaters interfere with your vision.

Those mysterious squiggly things floating about in our field of vision are called "*floaters*".

See an eye doctor urgently if you notice any new onset of floaters.



Floaters


(FLO - TUHZ)

Contact us

OasisEye Specialists

 1800 18 7676

 oasiseye.my

 linktr.ee/oasiseye





What are floaters ?

Floaters are little “cobwebs” or specks that float about in your field of vision. They are small, dark, shadowy shapes that can look like spots, thread-like strands, or squiggly lines. They move as your eyes move and seem to dart away when you try to look at them directly. They do not follow your eye movements precisely and usually drift when your eyes stop moving. Most people who have floaters often learn to ignore them. They are usually not noticed until they become numerous or more prominent. Floaters can become more apparent when looking at something bright, such as white paper or a blue sky. In most people, floaters are part of the natural aging process and are not dangerous.

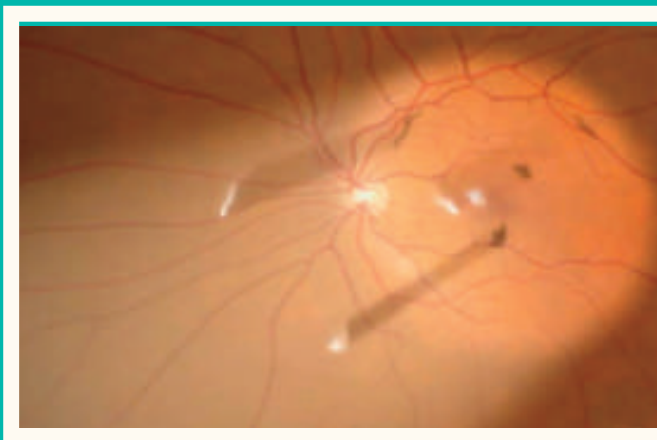
What are the risk factors?

Floaters are more likely to develop with

- age
- myopia (short-sightedness)
- diabetes
- trauma
- eye surgery
- infection
- inflammation (uveitis)
- haemorrhage (bleeding)

What causes floaters ?

Floaters occur when the vitreous, a jelly-like substance that fills most of the eye, slowly shrinks with age. As the vitreous shrinks, it becomes stringy and the strands can cast tiny shadows on the retina. They can be distracting at first, but eventually tend to “settle” at the bottom of the eye or get smaller, becoming less bothersome. Sometimes, floaters can occur together with flashes of light (photopsia); perceived as a dim flash even when our eyes are closed. This occurs when the vitreous gel bumps, tugs or even tears your retina.



An illustration of the inside of your eye showing how bits of the aging vitreous causes floaters.

Your Eyes – Your Windows to the World

TAKE NOTICE OF THEM

What are the potential problems ?

Sometimes floaters and flashes signal a condition that can lead to vision loss whereby a new onset may herald retinal disease. The shrinking vitreous can tug on the retina and pull away from it. This event, called a posterior vitreous detachment, is common and usually doesn’t threaten vision. In a few people, a posterior vitreous detachment causes the retina to tear. Fluid from inside the eye can then seep through the tear and separate the retina from the tissues that nourish it. This separation, called a retinal detachment, can lead to permanent vision loss unless treated promptly. Retinal tears and detachments are painless.

Key warning signs include:

- **New onset of floaters and flashes.**
- A **curtain** gradually blocking your field of vision.
- A **rapid decline** in sharp, central vision. This occurs when the macula, the area of the retina responsible for central vision detaches.

