

Patient information

Posterior Vitreous Detachment

St. Paul's Eye Department

The vitreous is a transparent gel substance filling the back of the eyeball. As you age, the vitreous gel shrinks and separates itself from part of the retina.

Signs and symptoms

You may notice black 'floaters' in your vision, which move with the eye and then settle as the eye rests. You may also be aware of flashing lights, like little flickers in the outside edge. To look at the eye will appear normal.

If you notice an increase in floaters in your vision, or if you notice a portion of your visual field missing, like a curtain coming across, this may be a warning that the retina is detaching, and you should contact a specialist as soon as possible.

Treatment and diagnosis

There is no treatment required for posterior vitreous detachment, only reassurance can be offered. The floaters will never really disappear but, in time, you will start taking less notice of them. The flashing lights should gradually settle down over the next few weeks.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

St Paul's Eye Emergency Department

Tel: 0151 706 3949

Text phone number: 1800 706 3949

Some helpful web site links for more information

www.stlukeseye.com

www.patient.co.uk

www.eyemdlink.com

www.rnib.org.uk

Author: St. Paul's Eye Department

Review date: March 2026

All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

يمكن توفير جميع المعلومات المتعلقة بالمرضى الموافق عليهم من قبل انتمان المستشفى عند الطلب بصيغ أخرى، بما في ذلك لغات أخرى وبطرق تسهل قراءتها وبالحروف الطباعية الكبيرة وبالصوت وبطريقة برايل للمكفوفين وبطريقة مون والكترونياً.

所有經信托基金批准的患者資訊均可以其它格式提供，包括其它語言、易讀閱讀軟件、大字體、音頻、盲文、穆恩體 (Moon) 盲文和電子格式，敬請索取。

در صورت تمایل میتوانید کلیه اطلاعات تصویب شده توسط اتحادیه در رابطه با بیماران را به اشکال مختلف در دسترس داشته باشید، از جمله به زبانهای دیگر، به زبان ساده، چاپ درشت، صوت، خط مخصوص کوران، مون و بصورت روی خطی موجود است.

زانباریی پیوهندی دار بهو نهخوشانهی له لایمن تراستهوه پهسمند کراون، نهگمر داوا بکریت له فورماتهکانی تردا بریتی له زمانهکانی تر، نیزی رید (هاسان خویندنهوه)، چاپی گهوره، شریتی دهنگ، هیلی موون و نهلیکترۆنیکی ههیه.

所有经信托基金批准的患者信息均可以其它格式提供，包括其它语言、易读阅读软件、大字体、音频、盲文、穆恩体（Moon）盲文和电子格式，敬请索取。

Dhammaan warbixinta bukaanleyda ee Ururka ee la oggol yahay waxaa marka la codsado lagu heli karaa nuskhado kale, sida luqado kale, akhris fudud, far waaweyn, dhegeysi, farta braille ee dadka indhaha la', Moon iyo nidaam eletaroonig ah.