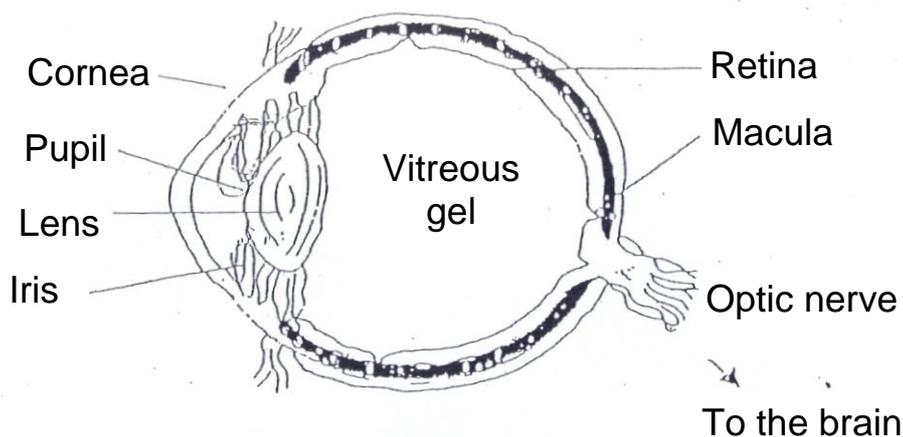
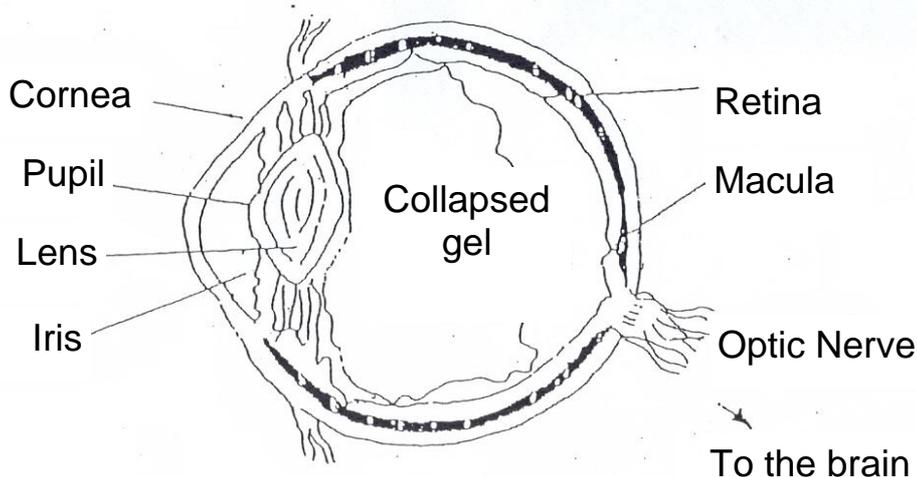


# Patient information

## Posterior vitreous separation



**Normal eye**



**Posterior vitreous detachment**

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**The vitreous** is the gel that fills up the back part of the eye and is normally attached to the **retina**.

**Vitreous separation** is a common occurrence. The gel collapses and separates from the retina.

**Floater** is the name given to the debris which is produced as the gel collapses. It may look like cobwebs, strands, or even tadpoles that move about in your vision.

**Flashes** are caused by the tugging on the retina by the gel as it pulls away.

## **What will happen to your vision?**

Most do not require treatment. Floaters are irritating but harmless. They tend to become less noticeable with time.

## **Why did you need an eye check?**

Sometimes but rarely, the gel can pull a tear in the retina. Early laser treatment could prevent this leading to a retinal detachment and decreased vision.

## **If you experience the following then you should contact the Eye Clinic:**

- Sudden onset of new floaters / shower of black dots
- New persistent flashing lights
- A black curtain that may totally obscure part of your vision (check each eye separately by covering each eye in turn)

**The vast majority of vitreous separation do not threaten your vision.**

If you wish to contact the

## **Eye Department**

Telephone 01284 713815 / 01284 712636

Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Friday 9:00am – 1:00pm

At the weekend and out of hours:

Telephone 01284 713000 and ask to speak to the 'on call' ophthalmic doctor.

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo)*

<https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>



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