

## Patient Information

### Floater in Posterior Vitreal Detachment

#### Department of Ophthalmology

You may have been seen by the doctor today because of the sensation of floaters in front of one of your eyes. This floater may have a shape that resembles a cobweb, spider or fly. It may also have been associated with flashing lights in the affected eye.

These occur commonly in short-sighted people with ageing of the eye. The vitreous or clear jelly that sits in the middle of the eye is normally attached to the back wall of the eye (the retina). In the normal situation, because the jelly is clear and firmly attached, you will see through it and not be aware of the presence of this jelly. With age this jelly starts to shrink a little and, as it does so, often pulls away from its attachment at the back of the eye. What you experience is the floater, or the sensation of something floating in the eye.

If you have experienced flashing light, this is due to the traction (or pull) that the jelly exerts on the retina as it pulls away. The floaters will not normally resolve, but you will become less aware of them as time passes.

#### **If at any time in the future you experience any of the following:**

- **Sudden increase in the number of floaters**
- **The sensation of a curtain falling down in front of the part of your vision**
- **Sudden increase in flashing lights**

**You should contact the Urgent Eye Clinic within 24 hours of your new symptoms developing so that a doctor can give you further advice.**

If you have any concerns or require any further information please contact the Urgent Eye Clinic:

- Monday - Friday: 9am to 7pm.
- Saturday: 9am to 12:30pm.
- Closed from Saturday after 12:30pm until Monday at 9am.
- Closed Bank Holidays - please attend your local A&E department.

**Contact details:**

The Lister Treatment Centre  
Lister Hospital  
Coreys Mill Lane  
Stevenage  
Hertfordshire SG1 4AB

Telephone: 01438 288122 - Select Menu Option 4

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