



Posterior vitreous detachment (PVD)

You have been diagnosed with a condition called posterior vitreous detachment (PVD). This leaflet explains what that means and how it may affect your retina.

What is PVD?

The inside of the eye contains a jelly-like substance called vitreous. Throughout life, this fills the inside of the eye, pressing against the retina. With age, this vitreous jelly changes and begins to turn to liquid. When this happens it can move away from the retina, and you will notice it as particles or 'floaters' in your vision. Occasionally, you may experience some flashing lights on the edge of your vision.

Will PVD affect my vision?

PVD is very common and although irritating, it is not a serious condition. However, the jelly can occasionally pull on the retina, leading to a small retinal hole, which is why the doctor has examined your eye so thoroughly. He/she will have been looking for any signs of a retinal hole or tear that could lead to a retinal detachment.

Is there any treatment?

If a retinal damage is not found, then no treatment is necessary. The floaters and flashing tend to last for several months, or even years, but will settle down and you will learn to ignore them.

Warning signs of something more serious

- You notice a sudden rush of floaters.
- You notice a sudden change in, or loss of, vision.
- You notice a dark shadow or 'curtain' appearing in your vision.
- Any flashing lights you experience get worse.

If you experience any of the above, **please go to the Eye Casualty as soon as possible**. This is important as you may have a retinal detachment. Retinal detachments rarely occur but it is important to check if you are at all worried. You do not need your GP to refer you to Eye Casualty.

Contacting us

If you have a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If urgent, please attend Eye Casualty or call 111.

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat & Sun & bank holidays 9am-12.30pm; Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
Eye Casualty: Prince Charles Eye Unit (Windsor):	Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm; Sat 8.30am-12.30pm; Closed Sun & bank holidays.
Dorrell Ward (Reading):	0118 322 7172 (24 hours a day)
Eye Day Unit (Reading):	0118 322 7123 (Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)
Eye Day Unit (PCEU Windsor)	01753 636496 Mon-Fri 7am to 6pm)

Outside of Eye Casualty hours, you should telephone your GP's out of hours' service, ring NHS 111 or if you have serious concerns, visit your nearest Emergency Department (A&E).

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

RBFT Ophthalmology, June 2025. Next review due: June 2027.