



Royal Berkshire
NHS Foundation Trust

Posterior vitreous detachment (PVD)

Information for patients

You have been diagnosed with a condition called posterior vitreous detachment (PVD)

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 hole / tear / detachment 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 got a minor eye problem, please seek advice from your GP, optician or pharmacist. If you think your problem might be urgent, please attend Eye Casualty.

Eye Casualty (Reading):	Mon-Fri 9am 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 9am to 5pm; Sat 9am-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)

Visit the Trust website at www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
London Road, Reading RG1 5AN
Telephone 0118 322 5111
www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Eye Unit, February 2019
Review due: February 2021