



Posterior vitreous detachment

Mr Kumar has diagnosed you with **posterior vitreous detachment**. This leaflet explains what it is, why it occurs, and how it can be treated and prevented.

What is a posterior vitreous detachment?

As we get older, the vitreous jelly in the eye becomes more liquid and can pull away from the retina at the back of the eye. This is called a posterior vitreous detachment (PVD). It is a normal ageing change and is very common, especially over the age of 50.

What symptoms does it cause?

The most common symptoms of a PVD are floaters and flashes of light. Floaters are small spots, cobwebs, lines or shadows that drift across your vision. Flashes are brief flickers or flashes of light, often seen at the edge of vision.

Usually, symptoms are more noticeable against bright backgrounds.

How is it treated?

In most people, PVD is harmless and does not need treatment. The brain often adapts to floaters over time, making them less noticeable. Most flashes improve gradually over weeks to months.

However, sometimes the vitreous jelly can pull on the retina strongly enough to cause:

- Retinal tear
- Bleeding inside the eye
- Retinal detachment

These conditions can threaten sight and may present in a similar way to a PVD. Therefore, it is essential to have a thorough examination of the eye.

What does the examination involve?

Mr Kumar will instil eye drops to enlarge the pupil and examine the eye. These drops will blur your vision for approximately 3 hours. It is therefore advised not to drive to or from the appointment.

If a retinal tear is found, Mr Kumar can perform the necessary urgent laser treatment to prevent it from advancing to a retinal detachment. You may require a follow-up appointment a few weeks afterwards to re-check the eye.

If a retinal detachment has already occurred, surgery may be needed, and Mr Kumar will advise you accordingly.

What should I look out for?

You should seek urgent advice if you develop any of the following:

- A sudden shower of new floaters
- Increasing flashes of light
- A dark curtain or shadow across your vision
- Sudden blurred or reduced vision
- Loss of side vision



Praveen Kumar

Posterior vitreous detachment (PVD) is a common age-related eye condition in which the vitreous gel inside the eye separates from the retina.

It often causes sudden floaters or flashes of light and is usually harmless, though urgent eye assessment is needed if symptoms worsen due to risk of retinal tear or detachment.

If you need to make an appointment with Mr Kumar, please get in touch with his team on:

Email: secretaryeyedoctor@gmail.com

Phone: 0118 911 3666

