Patientinformation

Vitreous detachment

What is vitreous?

The eye is to a large extent filled with a translucent gel clump, the vitreous. It is surrounded by and attached in the retina, where the sync cells are located. The function of the glass body is to support the retina.

What is vitreous detachment?

The older you get the more your glass body shrinks and become more watery. This is a natural process which usually begins in the middle ages. Then it can loosen from its fasteners on the retina. The change can start slightly earlier in people who are nearsighted.

When you glass body shrinks clouds are formed. These appear like flies, dots, worms or nets drifting in front of the eye. If the glass body draws the retina, there can also be flashes or light in the affected eye. This is in itself harmless and no treatment is required.

The trouble may remain for several months, but usually decreases over time. When it has been a few months, most of the opacities have disappeared.

Complications

In some cases, when the glass body pulls up, a hole can be formed in the retina and it can pass fluid between the retina and the wall which in turn can cause retinal detachment. It is a serious but rare complication of glass body removal.

Treatment

If the ophthalmologist only finds that the glass body is shrinking or loosening, you may accept the discomfort and can live as usual. The inconvenience may remain unchanged for a long time.

If the medical examination shows that the glass body has a hole in the retina, it can be welded firmly with laser treatment, which reduces the risk of retinal detachment. It is usually remedied.

In case it has gone so far and the patient has retinal detachment, then an operation is needed to put the retina back into place. Therefore, it is important at the beginning of the symptoms to confirm that it is a glass body removal that causes them and that there is no complication.

Complications can occur afterwards. Therefore, it is also important to get in touch immediately as soon as symptoms occur, which may indicate retinal redundancy.

Seek medical attention (eye clinic) or healthcare information when:

- **your vision is greatly deteriorated**
- **there are many new clouds and figures in front of the eye**
- **you experience light flash phenomena that occurs more often**
- **a dark curtain limits the edge of the field of view in some direction (try one eye at a time)**

Contact

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