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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it painful?

No: *The laser vaporizes the floaters by vitreolysis. It is painfree and takes 5-10 minutes. Sometimes 2 or 3 treatments are required.

Is it safe?

Yes: Provided the floaters are more than 2mm from the retina and the lens.

Are there any risks?

**About 60% of patients have floaters resolved completely. Another 30% show partial resolution and 10% show no change. There are no reported complications other than transient (1-2 days) blurring.

What about surgery?

Vitreotomy carries significant risks and can be corrected if treatment by laser has failed to completely resolve them.

Can it be repeated?

Yes: In general you would only need 2-3 treatments, new floaters may occur later in life and may be treated as before.

Are floaters harmful?

No: Not in their own right usually patients are told to ignore them or that they may spontaneously resolve. However many people find the symptoms very annoying. If you have sudden onset of floaters with flashing lights it would be advisable to consult an ophthalmologist to ensure you do not have retinal detachment.

Refs:

* B.J.O 1993; 77; 485-488

** MEACO Presentation, Dubai 2007

Laser Treatment for Floaters



Brendan Moriarty

Consultant ophthalmic surgeon

M.A. (Cantab), M.B., B. Chir., F.R.C.S., F.R.C. Ophth., M.D.

Brendan Moriarty has over 20 years experience in eye surgery and pioneered the use of laser for vitreous disorders.* He has specialist training in glaucoma from Moorfields Eye Hospital and was the first UK surgeon to implant the IOLVIP to restore vision in patients with macular degeneration.

Mr. Moriarty has worked and taught extensively in the developing world and is specialist advisor to NICE (National Institute for Clinical Excellence) and Project ORBIS, the renowned Flying Hospital. He is NHS consultant at Leighton Hospital, Crewe and consults privately in Knutsford, Altrincham and Macclesfield.

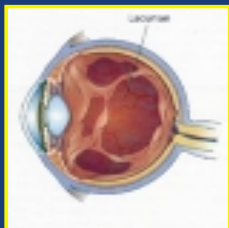
Ref: *Arch.Ophth 1987 105; 1087-1091

HOW DO FLOATERS FORM?

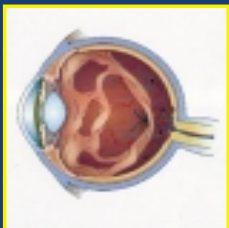
A) In the young eye, the vitreous gel is solid and is attached to the back of the eye.



B) In the aging eye, small pockets of vitreous liquefaction (lacunae) can develop within the gel.



C) The lacunae may develop into large pockets and lead to separation of the gel from the back of the eye.

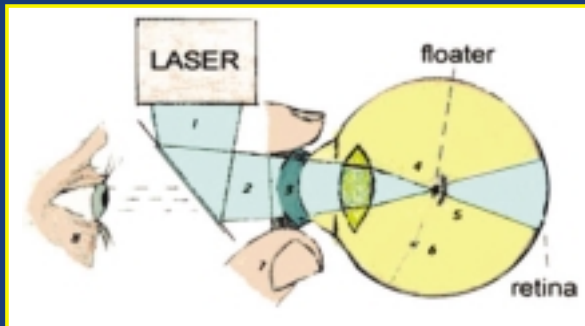


D) As the gel peels away, the retina may produce light flashes (photopsias) or can sometimes be torn. Light scattering by opacities or blood in the vitreous gel may appear as "floaters" to the patient. If a tear occurs and goes untreated, it can eventually lead to retinal detachment.



HOW DOES THE LASER WORK?

The laser beam (1) is reflected via a lens (2,3) into the vitreous floater (4) and vaporizes it by vitreolysis (5). Any other strands are lasered (6). The eye surgeon (8) monitors this throughout, under direct vision.



Laser Treatment for Floaters

To Make an Appointment contact

Telephone/Email via Deryn Fawcett :-

Tel: 0161 927 3177

Email: deryn@brendanmoriarty.com

Website: www.brendanmoriarty.com

Patient details

Name:

D.O.B.:

Phone:

Mobile:

Email:

Address:

Postcode:

GP information

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Preferred contact details if different from above

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Please note you will need a referral letter from your GP