



RETINAL DETACHMENT SYMPTOMS

FLOATERS – These semi-transparent specks typically become noticeable when they fall within your line of sight. Almost everyone sees a few annoying floaters at one time or other. These translucent specks occur in various shapes and sizes. Since they are within the eye, they move as our eye moves and seem to dart away as we look at them. These specks may be caused by protein, white blood cells, lymphocytes, blood, cholesterol, or calcium salts, just to name a few.

Floaters are most commonly caused by the **NATURAL AGING CHANGES OF THE EYE FLUIDS**; however, size or frequency, if they don't move as you look at them, or if they are accompanied by sudden flashes of light, **CONTACT MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY** and report your symptoms exactly as experienced.

LIGHT FLASHES – Symptoms of bright lights are typically caused by a normal aging change that takes place in most eyes. In some cases, however, it may indicate potential retinal problems. It is very important to pay close attention to the frequency and duration of their occurrence. Our eyes are filled with transparent gel called vitreous. The vitreous fills the back portion of the eye. It gives the eye its shape and holds the delicate retina in place. **NATURAL AND EXPECTED AGING CHANGES** of the eye allows for some shrinkage of the vitreous, thus giving less holding support on parts of the retina. With less pressure holding it in place, a portion of the retina may occasionally flutter or vibrate. When a portion of the retina moves and as the vitreous pulls away from the retina, it triggers the visual sensation of a light flash. You may notice that this symptom occurs especially if you move suddenly, bend over, or get up quickly from sitting or lying down. Most often, flashes occur in the periphery, or "edges", of your vision . . . not in the center or "straight ahead" area. No pain or discomfort would be felt. If, however, the retina moves too much, there is possible risk of retinal damage. If the frequency and/or duration of light flash's increase **CALL MY OFFICE WITHOUT DELAY!**

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE YOUR MEDICAL EYE CARE.