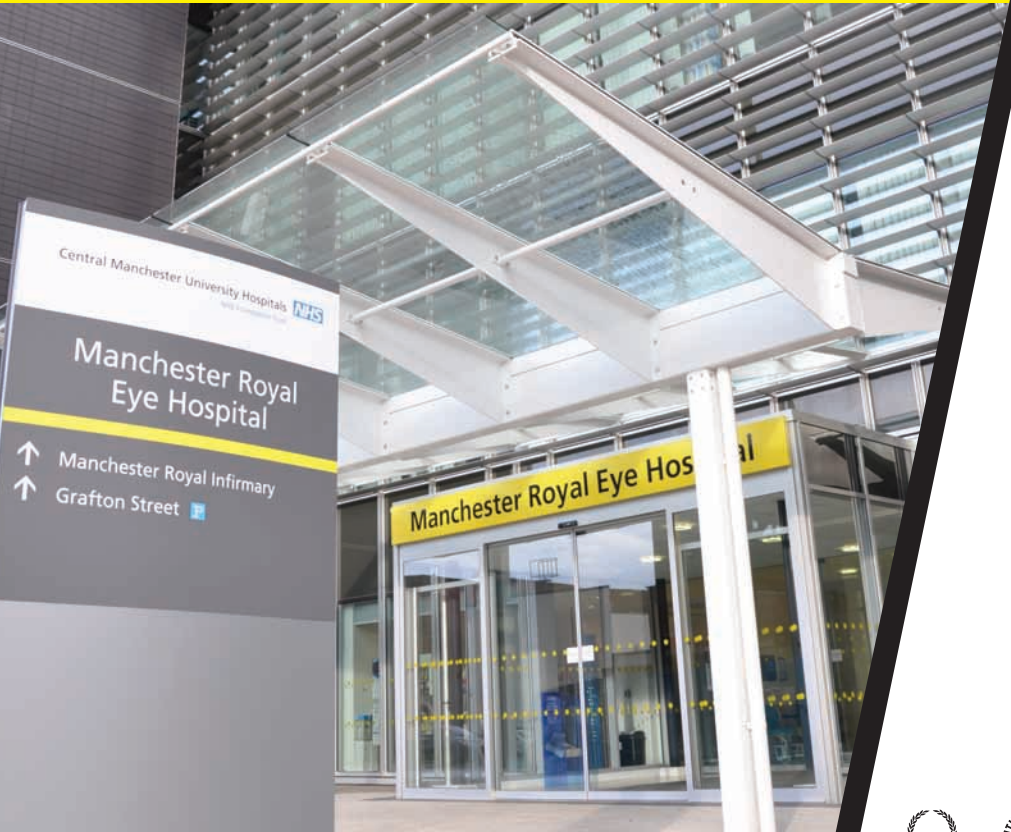




# Manchester Royal Eye Hospital

## Posterior Vitreous Detachment (PVD)

Information For Patients



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



POSITIVE ABOUT  
DISABLED PEOPLE

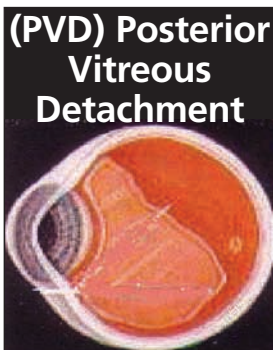
# What is posterior vitreous detachment?

The eye is filled with a jelly like substance called vitreous, a fluid that maintains the shape of the eye, supplies it with nutrition and helps with the focusing of light. The vitreous is attached loosely to the surface of the retina (photographic film at the back of the eye) in the early part of life. In middle age (or earlier in short-sighted people), the vitreous jelly may shrink and pull away from the retina, known as a posterior vitreous detachment.

Usually this does not cause lasting problems, however, patients may experience flashing lights and floaters (spots or thread like strands) which are often described as cobwebs or a lace curtain.



**Vitreous attached to surface of the retina**



**Vitreous pulls away from the retina**

## Will it affect my vision?

The floaters are annoying but are harmless and once the brain gets used to them they become less annoying. However, occasionally the pulling of the jelly on the retina produces a retinal tear. If the tear is left untreated, fluid can leak through the tear and cause detachment of your retina. Retinal detachment produces the symptom of a dark shadow in your vision, and eye surgery is required to prevent blindness.

During your eye examination, the doctor has performed a thorough assessment and found no indication of a retinal tear or a retinal detachment.

## Can anything be done?

Unfortunately, nothing can be done about the floaters though they may become less annoying with time. However, if you develop:

- A shower of new floaters
- A curtain coming across the vision or
- New flashing lights

You should contact your local Emergency Eye Centre.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital **0161 276 5599** (8.00 am – 9.00 pm) everyday or **0161 276 5512** – 24 hours everyday.

## Larger print

Please ask a member of the department staff if you require this information in large print or Braille.

## No Smoking Policy

The NHS has a responsibility for the nation's health.

Protect yourself, patients, visitors and staff by adhering to our no smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted within any of our hospital buildings or grounds.

The Manchester Stop Smoking Service can be contacted on Tel: (0161) 205 5998  
(www.stopsmokingmanchester.co.uk).

## Translation and Interpretation Service

Do you have difficulty speaking or understanding English?

আপনি কি ইংরেজীতে বুঝতে কিংবা বুঝাতে পেরেছেন ? (BENGALI)

क्या आपको अंग्रेजी बोलने या समझने में कठिनाई है ? (HINDI)

તમે ભાષા કારણે વાતચીત કરવામાં મુશ્કેલી આવે છે ? (GUJARATI)

ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਅੰਗ੍ਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਜਾਂ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਦਿੱਕਤ ਹੈ ? (PUNJABI)

Miyey ku adagtahay inaad ku hadasho Ingriisida aad saharnto (SOMALI)

هل لديك مشاكل في فهم اوالتكلم باللغة الانجليزية ؟ (ARABIC)

你有困難講英語或明白英語嗎？ (CANTONESE)

کیا آپکو انگریزی سمجھنے اور سمجھانے میں دقت پیش آتی ہے؟ (URDU)

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