

RETINAL DETACHMENT

Understanding Retinal Detachment, Warning Symptoms, Assessment & Urgent Treatment

EDGBASTON EYE CLINIC
Safe, Efficient & Patient Centred Care

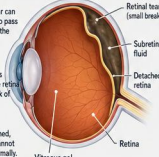
★★★★★
5 ★ RATED ON GOOGLE

1 CAUSES & RISK FACTORS

- ⚡ Retinal tears allowing fluid under the retina
- 👁️ Posterior vitreous detachment (PVD)
- 👓 High myopia
- 👁️ Previous cataract surgery
- 👁️ Eye trauma
- 👁️ Lattice degeneration
- 👁️ Family history in some cases
- 👁️ Previous retinal detachment in the fellow eye

📄 Retinal detachment is sight-threatening and usually requires urgent specialist treatment.

2 WHAT HAPPENS?

- 1 A retinal tear can allow fluid to pass underneath the retina.
 - 2 Fluid collects between the retina and the back of the eye.
 - 3 Once detached, the retina cannot function normally.
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📄 Prompt treatment offers the best chance of preserving vision.

3 COMMON SYMPTOMS

- 👁️ Sudden new floaters
- 🌟 Flashes of light
- 🌑 A curtain or shadow in the vision
- 👁️ Reduced peripheral vision
- 👁️ Blurred or distorted vision
- 👁️ Sudden reduction in vision if the macula becomes involved

⚠️ Flashes and floaters with a curtain or sudden visual loss should be assessed urgently.

4 CLINICAL FINDINGS



- Elevated retina on examination
- Retinal breaks may be identified
- Pigment cells or vitreous haemorrhage may be present
- Macular involvement affects central vision prognosis



📄 Dilated retinal examination is essential to confirm the diagnosis.

5 ASSESSMENT AT EDGBASTON EYE CLINIC

- ✓ Full symptom and visual assessment
- ✓ Dilated retinal examination
- ✓ Keeler digital slit lamp examination
- ✓ Optos Daytona ultra-widefield retinal imaging
- ✓ OCT imaging if clinically indicated
- ✓ Urgent onward referral pathway if a retinal tear or detachment is suspected



📄 Widefield retinal imaging helps document the retina, but urgent specialist referral is arranged when retinal detachment is suspected.

6 MANAGEMENT / TREATMENT



A RETINAL TEAR

May be treated urgently with laser retinopexy or cryotherapy.



B RETINAL DETACHMENT

Usually requires urgent hospital retinal surgery. Procedures may include vitrectomy, gas or silicone oil, or scleral buckle.



C TIMING

Earlier treatment improves the chance of retinal reattachment and visual recovery.



D AFTERCARE

Follow-up is essential after retinal treatment or surgery.

📄 Edgbaston Eye Clinic assesses, advises and refers urgently onward. Retinal detachment surgery is not performed in clinic.

7 WHEN TO SEEK URGENT HELP



URGENT ATTENTION REQUIRED

- Sudden new flashes and floaters
- A curtain, veil or shadow in the vision
- Sudden peripheral visual loss
- Rapid drop in vision
- Symptoms after eye trauma
- New symptoms in one eye, especially if highly myopic or after cataract surgery



Seek urgent same-day specialist eye assessment if you develop symptoms suggestive of retinal tear or retinal detachment.

8 KEY POINTS



Retinal detachment is an ocular emergency.



Flashes and floaters may be early warning symptoms.



A curtain in the vision is a red-flag sign.



Early treatment protects sight.



Dilated retinal examination is essential.

📄 If in doubt, seek urgent specialist advice.

EDGBASTON EYE CLINIC
Excellence in Eye Care

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