

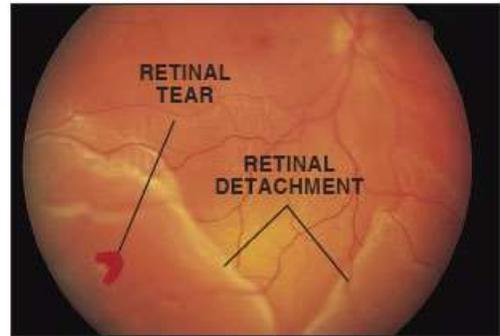
## The Quick Summary

You are okay for now, but watch for 100s of floaters, flashes of light, or curtains over your vision.

### Retinal Detachment Warnings

Dr. Shalwala has advised you to look out for symptoms of retinal detachment and retinal tear. This is likely because you have suffered a vitreous detachment.

Vitreous detachment and the risk of retinal tear: Eyes are filled with a jelly called the vitreous. Over time, this jelly liquefies (like melting Jell-O) in everybody. As it liquefies, it contracts as well, and some of the areas of the vitreous are firmly attached to the retina. A contracting vitreous can pull on the retina it is attached to. In most people, this process has no symptoms. In some people, the contracting jelly tugging on the retina can cause symptoms of flashes of light. It can also tear a piece of the retina and release pigment and/or blood, which can cause people to see hundreds of floaters. About 15-20% of patients who have symptoms of flashes or floaters have a retinal tear associated with their symptoms. If the tear allows some of the liquid vitreous to track beneath it, a fluid wave can separate the retina from the rest of the eye. This is called a retinal detachment, and it can cause a curtain over the vision.



Symptoms to watch out for: (if you have any of these symptoms, please go see an eye doctor (or an emergency doctor if you can't quickly find an eye doctor) as soon as possible)

1. **100s of floaters** - a tear of the retina that releases pigment or blood will result in hundreds of floaters, not just one or two. However, any sudden increase in floaters is concerning.
2. **Flashes of light** - flashes are usually out in the side vision and usually last a while or repeat rather than only occurring for in central vision and then not happening again.
3. **Curtains** - a curtain clouding part of the vision can be a retinal detachment. These curtains can be of any color, including gray, black, white, purple, blue, yellow, or just "blurry." What is always true is that the vision through the area of the curtain is very poor, and the curtain moves across the vision. A curtain will not go away or decrease significantly on its own with something as simple as blinking or waiting a few minutes.

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