

Understanding Retinal Detachment

Retinal detachment occurs when the retina—the eye's light-sensitive tissue—separates from the back wall of the eye, like wallpaper peeling off a wall. This is a sight-threatening emergency that requires immediate treatment by a retina specialist.



But there is hope! Today's advanced treatment approaches can preserve vision when performed quickly after symptoms appear. Retinal detachment repairs succeed in about 9 out of 10 cases.



Know the Warning Signs

Symptoms often appear suddenly and can include:

- ⚠ **Sudden appearance of black spots or “floaters” in your vision**
- ⚠ **Sudden flashes of light**
- ⚠ **A shadow or curtain that appears in your vision, closing in from the top, bottom, or side**
- ⚠ **New or worsening blurred vision**

Important: In some cases, retinal detachment occurs with no obvious symptoms, making regular dilated eye exams especially important for early detection.

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resource
from



American Society of
Retina Specialists

Retinal Detachment Guide

Who is at Risk?

Retinal detachment can happen to anyone, although the risk increases as we age. Other risk factors include:

- **Extreme nearsightedness** (high myopia)
- **Previous retinal detachment** in either eye
- **Previous eye surgery**, such as cataract removal
- **Eye trauma or injury**
- **Lattice degeneration** (thinning in the outer edges of the retina)
- **Family history** of retinal detachment



If You Experience Symptoms: Act Fast

Retinal detachment is a vision emergency. Recognizing the symptoms and acting quickly can mean the difference between saving and losing your vision.

What to do immediately:

1. **Contact a retina specialist right away**—even after hours or on weekends
2. **Don't delay**—prompt treatment is critical for the best outcome
3. **Avoid vigorous activities** until you can be examined



Treatment Options

Retina specialists have several advanced treatment options to repair retinal detachment:

Vitrectomy: Removal of the gel inside the eye to access and repair the retina

Pneumatic Retinopexy: Injection of a gas bubble to push the retina back into place

Scleral Buckle: Placement of a band around the eye to support the retina

Laser Therapy: Sealing tears or weak areas in the retina

The goal of all treatments is to reattach the retina to the back wall of the eye and seal any tears that caused the detachment.

Remember: Time is Vision

If you experience sudden changes in your vision—especially flashing lights, new floaters, or a curtain-like shadow—contact a retina specialist immediately. Early treatment can save your sight.

Find your retina specialist at
www.FindYourRetinaSpecialist.org

 **ASRS** American Society of
Retina Specialists