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**YAG VITREOLYSIS LASER**

Floaters are shadows in your vision caused by opacities in the normally clear jelly in the middle of your eye, known as the vitreous gel. Floaters can be troublesome and because they occur at unpredictable times can be a hazard for your visual function (for example they can be troublesome when trying to read, watching TV or when driving). Some people may have just one floater while others have more than one, often in both eyes.

YAG vitreolysis laser is designed to treat these vitreous opacities which can give rise to symptoms of floaters.

The laser gently breaks up the vitreous opacity/opacities into smaller pieces and these are then broken up into yet smaller pieces. The process is repeated until eventually the opacities "dissolve".

Patients usually report a reduction in their symptoms. Often floaters are eliminated, but occasionally smaller floaters can remain. Although reduced in size and severity, they can still be noticed and if troublesome, the laser procedure can be repeated to further reduce the problem.

The results are generally positive and, while most patients report an improvement in their symptoms, some say their floaters completely disappear while other may still see some floaters, though reduced in number and/ or severity. If the remaining floaters are still a problem, repat laser should further reduce these symptoms. Most people only require one treatment per eye, but it is not unusual to require more than one treatment.

This procedure is very safe and the success rate in elimination or reducing floaters is high but, like all surgical procedures, potential risks exist in possible accidental application of laser to adjacent eye structures such as the retina or the lens. This is rare and unlikely but should it occur it is possible that further procedures may be required, for example retinal surgery or lens surgery.