

Floater and Flashes: When They Are Harmless and When to Worry

Floater, those small specks or thread like shapes that drift across the field of vision, are extremely common and usually harmless, particularly as part of normal ageing changes within the gel like substance filling the eye. Flashes of light, often described as brief sparks or streaks, can also occur without indicating anything serious. However, a sudden and significant increase in floaters, especially when accompanied by new flashes of light or a shadow spreading across part of the vision, can signal a retinal tear or detachment, which requires urgent assessment rather than a <https://www.medsecnet.org/why-early-amd-disease-treatment-matters/> wait and see approach. The key distinction tends to be sudden change. Floaters that have been present for years without significant change are generally nothing to worry about, while a sudden new onset, particularly involving many new floaters at once, warrants prompt attention from an eye care professional. When in doubt, seeking same day assessment is always the safer choice. Most eye clinics treat sudden onset floaters and flashes as a priority precisely because the underlying cause, while often benign, occasionally requires urgent treatment.