



Treatment

- Laser treatment is done in the clinic and does not require surgery.
- The procedure usually takes 10 to 30 minutes.
- Some people may need more than 1 session.
- Your pupil will be dilated with eye drops.
- Numbing drops will be placed on your eye.
- A special contact lens may be used to help your doctor see the floater.
- The doctor uses the laser to target the floater through a microscope.
- You may see flashes of light and hear clicking sounds. The laser itself usually does not cause pain.
- The contact lens is removed when the laser is finished.

What to Expect After Treatment

- Your vision may be blurry for a few hours.
- Your eye may feel mildly irritated or sensitive to light.
- Floaters may look different or move around

- Some patients notice improvement, while others notice little change. New floaters can develop over time as part of normal aging.

Risks and Limitations

Laser treatment is generally safe but there are risks. They include:

- Floaters may not improve.
- Floaters may return or new ones may develop
- Temporary irritation or inflammation
- Rare risk of damage to the lens or retina

Other Options Include:

- Observation (No treatment)
- Surgery which can remove floaters more completely but has high risks and is only used in select cases



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Approved by DUHS Patient Education Governance Council 07/2026

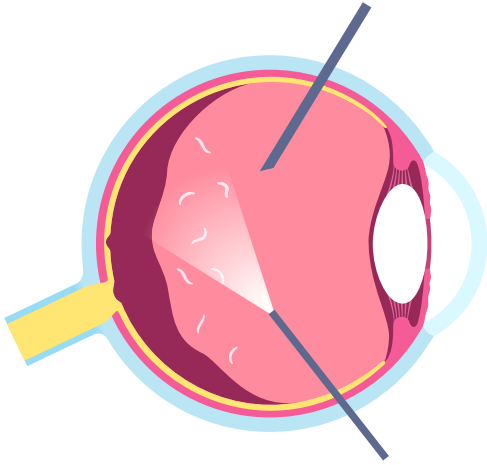
Patient Education



Laser Treatment for Eye Floaters



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What Are Floaters?

Floaters are small shapes that move across your vision. They may look like spots, strings, or tiny clouds. Floaters form when the clear gel inside your eye (called the vitreous) changes over time. Small clumps develop and cast shadows on the retina. This is what causes you to see floaters.

Common Causes of Floaters

- Normal aging changes in the eye
- Retinal tear or detachment
- Past inflammation or bleeding in the eye
- Past eye surgery or injury

Most floaters are harmless. Many people notice them less over time as the brain adapts. Treatment is usually only considered when floaters make it hard to do everyday tasks like reading, driving, or using a computer.

Some floaters, such as those made of blood or pigment, cannot be treated with a laser and may be a sign of a more serious eye problem.

What Is Laser Treatment for Floaters?

A special laser can be used to break up certain types of floaters. This may make them smaller and less noticeable.

The goal is to reduce symptoms, not always to remove floaters completely. Some floaters can be improved or eliminated, but not all. The laser does not remove the gel inside your eye. Some floaters cannot be treated safely because of their size, shape, or location.

Results vary from person to person. A full eye exam is needed to decide if treatment is appropriate. Talk with your eye doctor before deciding on treatment. Laser treatment for eye floaters is not covered by health insurance.

Who May Be a Good Candidate?

Laser treatment may be an option if floaters have lasted a long time, if they are bothersome, and if they affect daily activities. A full eye exam is needed to make sure treatment is safe.

You May Not Be a Candidate for Laser Floater Treatment if:

- The floater is too close to the retina
- The floater is too close to the natural lens
- There are many floaters or they are spread out
- You have certain eye or retina conditions

Even if a floater can be seen during the exam, it may still be unsafe to treat depending on where it is located.