

Flashes & Floaters

Protocols to accompany the pathway.

1. Symptoms requiring **Urgent Referral to HES** without Optometrist Intervention:
 - Flashes & Floaters
 - + Rapid vision loss
 - + Curtain across vision PLUS vision loss
 - + Functionally Monocular i.e. VA in other eye is worse than 6/60
 - + History of Retinal detachment/Tear in fellow eye
 - + Field loss
 - + High Myopia (>5D)
 - Phone Triage 0300 422 3578 and arrange HES appointment
FAX either CGH: 0300 422 3652 or GRH: 0300 422 8450
2. Symptoms requiring **"Urgent" assessment by Optometrist within 24 hours:**
 - Sudden Increase in number of floaters – “too much to count”
 - Sudden shower of floaters
 - Cloud/Curtain/Veil across vision
 - Flashes < 6 weeks
3. Symptoms requiring **"Soon" assessment by Optometrist within 48 hours**
 - Stable Flashes and Floaters
 - Symptoms > 6 weeks
 - Normal Vision
4. Referrals at **weekends/Bank Holidays**
 - Phone 0300 422 3578
 - Speak with Doctor on Call & make an emergency appointment on behalf of the patient.
5. Detailed **History and Symptoms of a patient who presents with symptoms suggestive of a retinal break:**
 - Detailed History & Symptoms
 - Examine Anterior Vitreous to look for pigment cells
 - Perform a dilated Fundus examination, with at least the field of view of a Volk 90
 - Examination of all 8 positions of gaze
6. 4 to 6 week Follow up:
 - Patient with only one seeing eye, reassess Posterior Vitreous Detachment in 4 to 6 weeks
 - Any uncertainty on behalf of Optometrist
 - Second opinion from colleague

NOTES:

A. Positive Signs of a retinal break:

- Retinal Detachment
- Vitreous or pre-retinal break
- Pigment 'Tobacco dust'
- Retinal Tear/hole

B. Negative Signs of a break:

- Clear Vision
- No Tear
- No Pigment in Anterior Vitreous
- Uncomplicated Posterior Vitreous Detachment