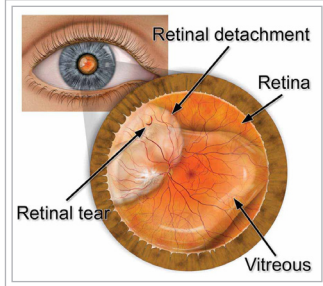




Learn more at our website: HillsboroEyeClinic.com

WHAT IS A DETACHED OR TORN RETINA?



A detached retina is when the retina lifts away from the back of the eye. The retina does not work when it is detached, making vision blurry. A detached retina is a serious problem. An ophthalmologist needs to check it out right away, or you

could lose sight in that eye.

A torn retina is a serious problem that makes your vision blurry. It is when the retina has a tear or hole, like a rip in cloth. A torn retina often leads to a more serious condition called a detached retina. This is where the retina is lifted away from the back of the eye. A torn retina must be treated right away to avoid further vision problems.

WHAT CAUSES A DETACHED OR TORN RETINA?

As we get older, the vitreous in our eyes starts to shrink and get thinner. As the eye moves, the vitreous moves around on the retina without causing problems. But sometimes the vitreous may stick to the retina and pull hard enough to tear it. When that happens, fluid can pass through the tear and lift (detach) the retina.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

A detached retina has to be examined by an ophthalmologist right away. Otherwise, you could lose vision in that eye. Call an ophthalmologist immediately if you have any of these symptoms:

- Seeing flashing lights all of a sudden. Some people say this is like seeing stars after being hit in the eye.
- Noticing many new floaters at once. These can look like specks, lines or cobwebs in your field of vision.
- A shadow appearing in your peripheral (side) vision.
- A gray curtain covering part of your field of vision.

HOW IS A DETACHED OR TORN RETINA DIAGNOSED?

Your ophthalmologist will put drops in your eye to dilate (widen) the pupil. Then they will look through a special lens to check your retina for any changes.

WHAT ARE THE TREATMENTS FOR A DETACHED OR TORN RETINA?

A retinal detachment is a severe problem that almost always causes blindness unless treated.

If the retina is detached, it must be reattached before sealing the retinal tear. There are three ways to repair retinal detachments.

Pneumatic retinopexy involves injecting a special gas bubble into the eye that pushes on the retina to seal the tear.

Scleral buckle is a procedure that drains the fluid from under the retina before a flexible piece of silicone is sewn on the outer eyewall to support the tear while it heals.

Vitrectomy surgery removes the vitreous gel from the eye, replacing it with a gas bubble, slowly replaced by the body's fluids.

There are two ways your eye surgeon may fix your retinal tear.

Photocoagulation uses a laser is used to seal the retina to the wall of the eye. The goal is to keep fluid from going through the tear and detaching the retina.

Cryopexy uses extreme cold is used to seal the retina to the wall of the eye. The goal is to keep fluid from going through the tear and detaching the retina.