



Retinal Detachment

Retina is like the film inside a camera and is responsible for sensing the light and forming images. Retinal detachment refers to the separation between the neural inner layer and pigmented outer layer of the retina leading to the loss of proper function of the retina and even blindness.

Causes

Retinal detachment can be grossly classified as rhegmatogenous (a break in retina) or non-rhegmatogenous (non-break related).

- Rhegmatogenous retinal detachment refers to retinal detachment secondary to a break on the retina and the liquefied vitreous get into the potential space inducing the detachment. It is related to age, hereditary factors, short-sightedness, trauma and the process of vitreous liquefaction.
- Non-rhegmatogenous retinal detachment can be caused by severe inflammation inside the eye, tumor or proliferative diabetic retinopathy.

Signs / Symptoms

- Suddenly decrease of vision.
- Flashing light.
- Flying dots (floaters).
- Partial loss of the visual field.

Treatment

Treatment for retinal detachment is mainly by different surgical methods:

- Pneumatic retinopexy
- Scleral buckling
- Vitrectomy
- Cryotherapy
- laser treatment

Point to Note

- Before operation:
Maintain bed rest with appropriate posture in order to prevent further detachment.
- After operation:
Maintain prescribed position for some period of time to facilitate retinal attachment if gas or silicone oil is injected inside the eye.
If gas has been injected into the eye, patient should refrain from traveling by plane or go to high altitude areas within 6-8 weeks and until the gas has completely resolved.

Remarks

Retinal detachment is a serious eye condition. Patient may go blind if the condition is not treated. Patient should seek medical advice once the related signs and symptoms appear.

The information is for general education purpose and reference only.

Should you have any queries, please consult medical professionals

Specialty Advisory Group (Ophthalmology)

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