



Retinal Detachment

Your doctor has diagnosed retinal detachment which means that the lining of the back of the eye has become separated or elevated from its normal position. The retina is similar to film in a camera in that it collects light and transfers images to the brain. When the retina is detached, it no longer has its blood supply and therefore does not function in the proper manner.

Most retinal detachments are repaired by removing the jelly-like substance in the center of the eye called vitreous. The procedure is called a vitrectomy. After the vitreous is removed, an air bubble is placed inside the eye which pushes the retina back into position. All holes or areas of retinal defect are sealed with a laser.

As long as there is air in the eye, the patient must refrain from any activities that would jar the head or compress the eye. The air bubble usually resolves over one to two months and the patient must avoid any air travel or changes in atmosphere during that time. Your doctor will monitor the amount of air in your eye and the healing process on your post-op visits. As the bubble shrinks, you may notice some fluid level or black line. This is the normal healing process.

As with any operation, there are risks of complications. The greatest risk in any eye surgery is losing your eye from an infection or hemorrhage. Additionally, other complications can occur including cataract and scar tissue with recurrent retinal detachments. All of these complications are rare and your progress will be monitored closely during the post-op period. It usually takes several months to a year before the healing process is completed after retinal detachment. Your vision should slowly improve each month.

Your medical status will be evaluated prior to any surgery. Our nursing staff and physicians will review all tests and perform a medical evaluation before any anesthesia is given.

Please discuss any concerns or reservations with the nursing staff or physicians before the operation.

Patient Signature

Date

Relationship to patient

Witness