

## Vitrectomy

Your doctor has recommended vitrectomy for removal of opacity due to a vitreous hemorrhage or other intraocular debris. The vitreous is the clear jelly that fills the middle of the eye. It normally breaks down with time and can cause floaters. If there is hemorrhage into the vitreous from retinal blood vessels or a retinal tear then light will not pass to the retina and vision is poor.

A vitrectomy is carried out by removing the jelly like substance in the center of the eye using a small needle and cutter. The vitreous cavity is then filled with either air or fluid depending upon the cause of the opacity or decreased vision. If air is placed in the eye, it is important that the patient does not perform any strenuous activities or engage in air travel. Any change in atmosphere can cause changes in pressure in the eye. Additionally, it may be necessary to position the head post-op for best results. You will be informed which position is optimal.

Most patients heal quickly after a vitrectomy and their vision will improve. Your doctor will monitor your progress closely for any complications which rarely include infection, retinal detachment, or recurrent hemorrhage. Additionally, other complications can occur including cataract and scar tissue.

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.

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Patient Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship to patient

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness