

Floaters in Focus: Assessing Treatment of Vitreous Opacities

1 hour

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Description

Explore the latest in managing ocular floaters, from assessing patient impact to evaluating surgical and non-surgical treatment options, including laser vitreolysis and vitrectomy, to enhance visual outcomes and improve quality of life

Objectives

- Understand the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of vitreous opacities, including their impact on visual function and quality of life.
- Evaluate non-surgical treatment options for ocular floaters, such as observation and laser vitreolysis, and their indications.
- Discuss surgical approaches, including pars plana vitrectomy, assessing risks, benefits, and patient selection criteria.

Outline:

I. Introduction

- Definition and Prevalence of Ocular Floaters
 - Overview of vitreous opacities and their impact on vision.
 - Epidemiological data: Age-related prevalence and patient demographics.
- Impact on Quality of Life
 - Psychological and functional effects of floaters.
 - Patient-reported outcomes and complaints.

II. Pathophysiology and Clinical Presentation

- Pathophysiology of Vitreous Opacities
 - Vitreous structure and age-related changes.
 - Formation of floaters: Collagen aggregation, liquefaction, and posterior vitreous detachment (PVD).
 - Secondary causes: Trauma, uveitis, and systemic diseases.
- Clinical Presentation
 - Common symptoms: Shadows, cobwebs, and moving spots.
 - Differential diagnosis: Retinal tears, detachments, and hemorrhages.
- Diagnostic Evaluation
 - Key elements of the patient history.

- Examination techniques: Slit lamp biomicroscopy and indirect ophthalmoscopy.
- Imaging: OCT and ultrasound for PVD or retinal complications.

III. Non-Surgical Treatment Options

- Observation and Patient Education
 - Natural history of floaters and spontaneous adaptation.
 - Managing patient expectations.
- Laser Vitreolysis
 - Indications and contraindications.
 - Mechanism of action: Nd:YAG laser for floater disruption.
 - Efficacy and safety: Review of current evidence and potential complications (e.g., retinal tears, IOP spikes).

IV. Surgical Treatment Options

- Pars Plana Vitrectomy (PPV)
 - Indications: Persistent and visually debilitating floaters.
 - Surgical technique overview: Three-port vitrectomy and removal of vitreous opacities.
 - Risks and complications: Cataract formation, infection, retinal detachment, and endophthalmitis.
 - Patient selection criteria: Balancing risks and benefits.
- Emerging Surgical Techniques
 - Advances in minimally invasive vitrectomy.
 - Potential future innovations.

V. Case Studies and Practical Applications

- Case Study #1: A 70-year-old patient with symptomatic floaters post-PVD and s/p CE PCIOL
 - Diagnostic workup and discussion of treatment options.
- Case Study #2: A 40-year-old patient with floaters secondary to uveitis
 - Tailored treatment approach.
- Case Study #3: A 60-year-old patient with long-standing floaters and cataracts
 - Surgical considerations in combined cataract and vitrectomy cases.

VI. Conclusion and Q&A

- Summary of Key Points
 - Importance of individualized patient assessment.
 - Weighing non-surgical vs. surgical approaches.

- Future Directions
 - Emerging technologies and research in vitreous opacity management.