



VITRECTOMY SURGERY

What is vitrectomy surgery?

A vitrectomy is a type of eye surgery to treat various problems with the **retina** and **vitreous**, including:

- Some types of retinal detachment
- Macular holes
- Vitreous hemorrhage
- Macular pucker
- Severe trauma
- Infections inside the eye
- Vitreous debris or floater removal
- Certain conditions associated with cataract surgery resulting in retained lens material or a dislocated intraocular lens

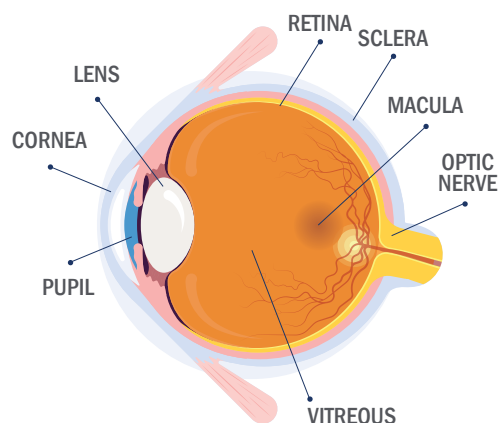
How can a vitrectomy improve my vision?

The retina is a layer of cells at the back of your eye. These cells use light to send visual information to your brain. The vitreous is a gel-like substance that fills the middle portion of your eye. Normally the vitreous is clear, allowing light to pass through your eye and reach your retina.

Certain problems can cause blood and debris to block this light. Sometimes the retina tears, detaches or forms scar tissue. All of this can impair vision. During the surgery, your surgeon removes the affected vitreous and replaces it with another solution.

Various procedures performed in combination with a vitrectomy allow surgeons to reattach a detached retina, close retinal holes, and remove blood, debris and scar tissue that may be limiting your vision, and more.

HEALTHY EYE



What can I expect before and during surgery?

Vitrectomy surgery requires a team approach. Before surgery, you may have a physical exam with your primary care doctor to identify and treat any existing medical conditions. Your surgeon and anesthesiology team will decide whether local or general anesthesia is most appropriate.

Most vitrectomies are performed on an outpatient basis with local anesthesia. The procedure lasts from 20 minutes to several hours, depending on your condition. Other procedures such as peeling membranes or laser application may be performed at the same time, if necessary.

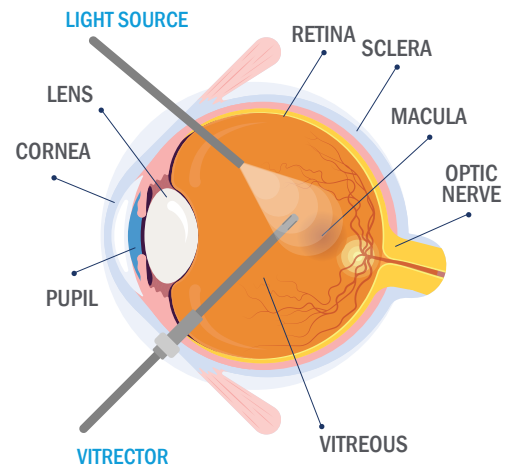
Your surgeon will make small incisions in the **sclera** and then perform the surgery using a microscope and fine instruments including a **light source** and a **vitrector**. Your eye may be filled with air, gas or silicone oil that helps hold everything in place as you heal. Air and gas will be absorbed as you heal; if oil is used, you may need another surgery to remove it.

What happens after surgery?

The healing process may take several weeks or months, depending on your underlying disease. Your eye may be red, and you may experience some minor discomfort. Your doctor will prescribe eye drops, give you clear instructions on how to use them and provide techniques for managing discomfort.

If your surgery required gas or oil, you may need to keep your head in a certain position, with your face down, for several days to allow it to press the layers of your retina together for proper healing. Your vision may be blurry for several days to weeks.

If you have a gas or air bubble in your eye, you cannot fly in an airplane or travel at high altitudes as this can cause a dangerous rise in eye pressure. In addition, you must not undergo other surgeries—especially those using nitrous gas—until the bubble is gone. Your surgeon will advise you when to resume all activities.



Face-down positioning following vitrectomy surgery

Risks of vitrectomy surgery

- Cataract progression
- Bleeding of the eye
- Eye infection
- Retinal tear/detachment
- High eye pressure
- Poor vision
- Pain
- Recurrence of underlying condition

