

**Mayo Clinic Minute: What are eye floaters?**

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p>b-roll of eyes eye floater illustration</p>	<p>TAKE 1 Having vision problems? Do you see black or gray specks, strings or cobwebs that drift about when you move your eyes? It could be eye floaters.</p>
<p>Continue illustration through the first part of the SOT</p> <p><b>Amir Khan, M.D.</b> <b>Ophthalmology</b> <b>Mayo Clinic</b></p> <p><b>SULL0001</b> <b>00:55</b></p>	<p>“In the back of our eyes, we have a substance called ‘the vitreous.’ When we’re young, it’s a firm clump of jelly. As we age, this firm clump of jelly can liquefy and break up into smaller pieces. Those smaller pieces are what you may notice as floaters.”</p>
<p><b>b-roll of patient talking to doctor</b> <b>retinal tear illustration</b></p>	<p>TAKE 2 Eye floaters are more common as you get older and if you’re nearsighted. The biggest concern, they can cause retinal tears.</p>
<p><b>Dr. Khan</b> <b>SULL0001</b> <b>02:56</b></p>	<p>“If a tear develops in the retina, fluid can get in underneath that tear and just lift the retina off like wallpaper off a wall. And that’s a retinal detachment.”</p>
<p><b>b-roll of eye exam</b></p>	<p>TAKE 1 And that can cause blindness, which is why it’s especially important to have a dilated eye exam within days of noticing new floaters or changes in vision.</p>
<p><b>b-roll of eyes, exam</b></p>	<p>TAKE 1 Most eye floaters don’t require treatment, but your eye doctor likely will recommend regular eye exams to ensure the condition doesn’t worsen.</p>
	<p>TAKE 1 For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I’m Jason Howland.</p>