

South River Eye Care
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LIGHT FLASHES AND FLOATERS

Many conditions can cause a person to become aware of flashes and floaters. Some of these conditions are common and not serious. Others can indicate a problem that is potentially vision or even life threatening.

Between the ages of 20 and 50 the most common cause of light flashes are a visual form of migraine, which may or may not be accompanied by headache and nausea. Floaters occurring at this time of life, however, could indicate a retinal inflammation of part of the vascular layer of the eye.

Over age 50, light flashes could indicate vascular problems, a vitreous detachment, or tugging of the vitreous on the retina. Floaters over age 50 could indicate vitreous degeneration, a vitreous detachment or a retinal detachment.

Since some of the above could be serious, light flashes and floaters should not be ignored, especially if there is a sudden onset or large increase in the problem. Following his/her evaluation your eye specialist may request that you have additional testing done by a neurologist, internist or a retinal specialist should your symptoms or eye examination warrant it.

For further information do not hesitate to contact our office.