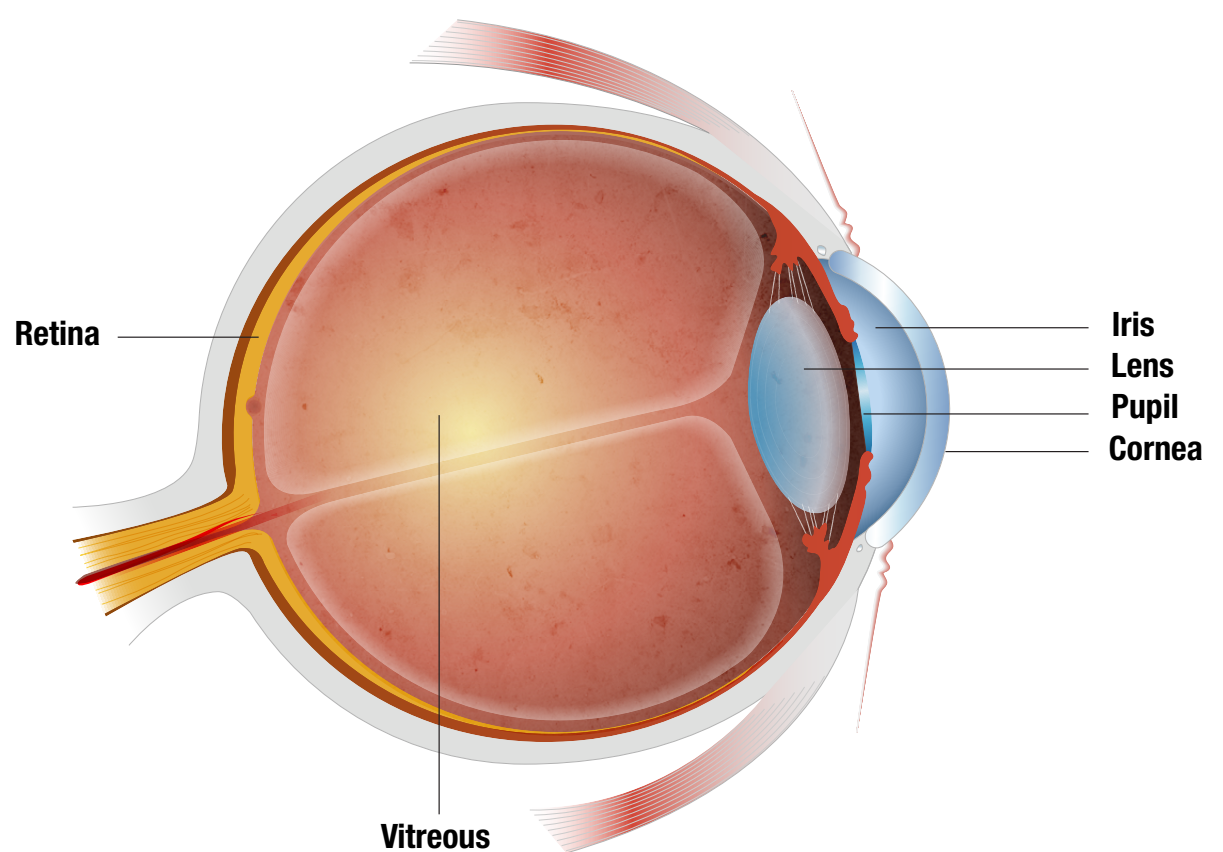


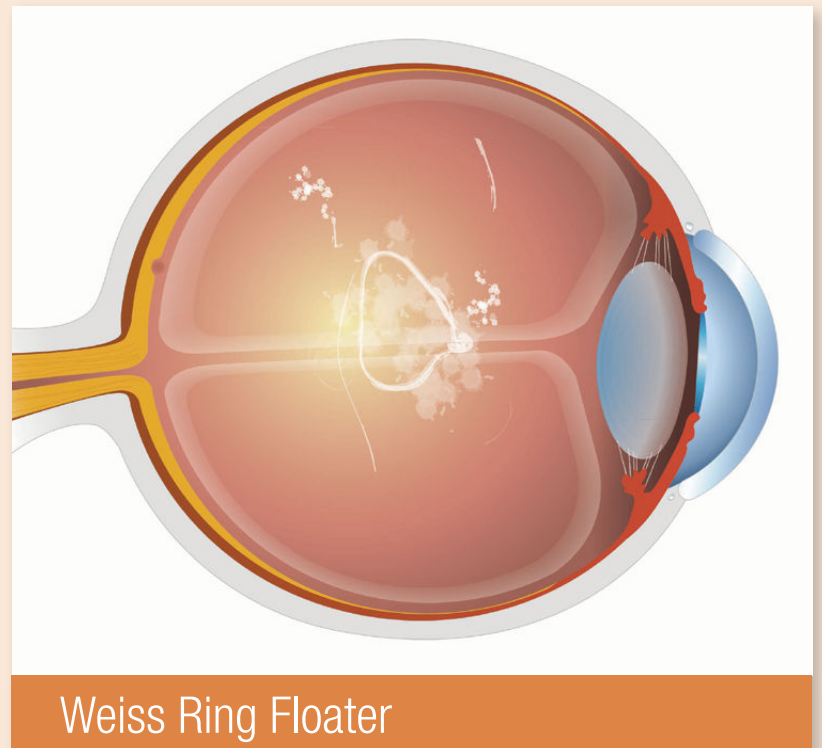
- Floaters are little “cobwebs” or specks that float in your field of vision. They are small, dark, shadowy shapes that can look like spots, thread-like strands, or squiggly lines.
- Floaters are visible only because they do not remain fixed in location. If floaters were still instead of floating around, for example, your brain would automatically ignore them and you would never consciously see them. The brain often does this with things positioned both in and outside of the eye. For example, you do not perceive the blood vessels in your eye, which are fixed in location close to the retina, because your brain ignores them.
- Whilst a floater remains dormant in your eye, it is suspended in the vitreous humor and will therefore drift in line with your eye movement – and hence it often appears to be “moving”.
- You can see floaters better when looking at a bright blue sky because your pupils contract to a very small size, which in turn makes floaters more pronounced.
- Typically, a floater will not significantly change its shape or size during a patient’s lifetime.
- Floaters are more likely to develop as we age and are more common in people who are very nearsighted, have diabetes, or who have had a cataract operation.

The vitreous humor is the clear, jelly-like substance in the main chamber of the eye, located between the lens and the retina.

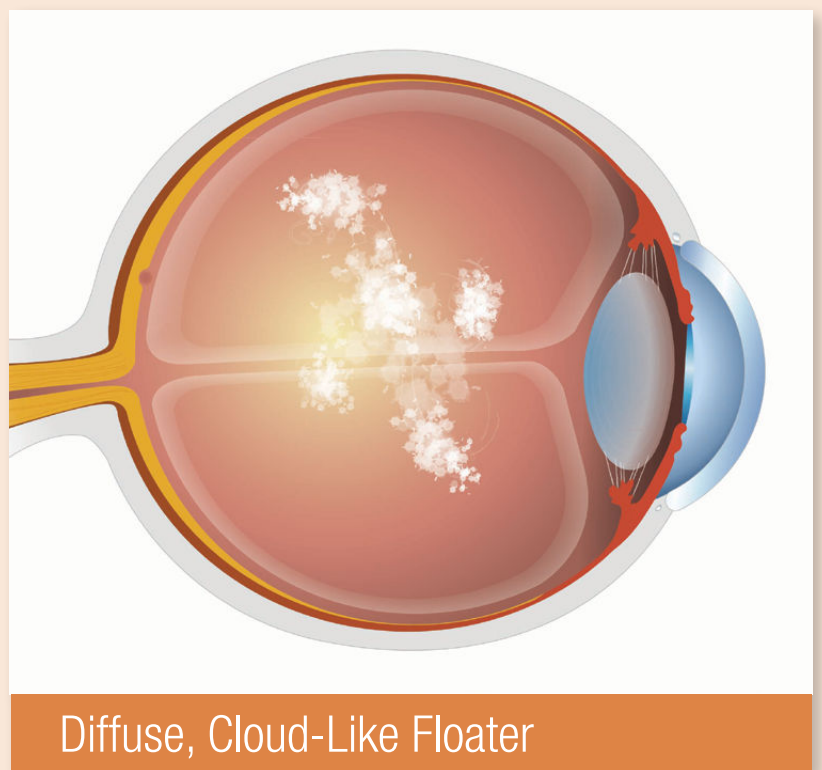
At a young age, the vitreous is perfectly transparent. Over time as the eye ages, the vitreous humor can degenerate, losing its form and liquefying. Without the stable vitreous humor, the collagen fibers collapse and bind together to form clumps and knots. These fibers cast shadows on the eye’s retina. It is these shadows that are commonly referred to as “eye floaters”.



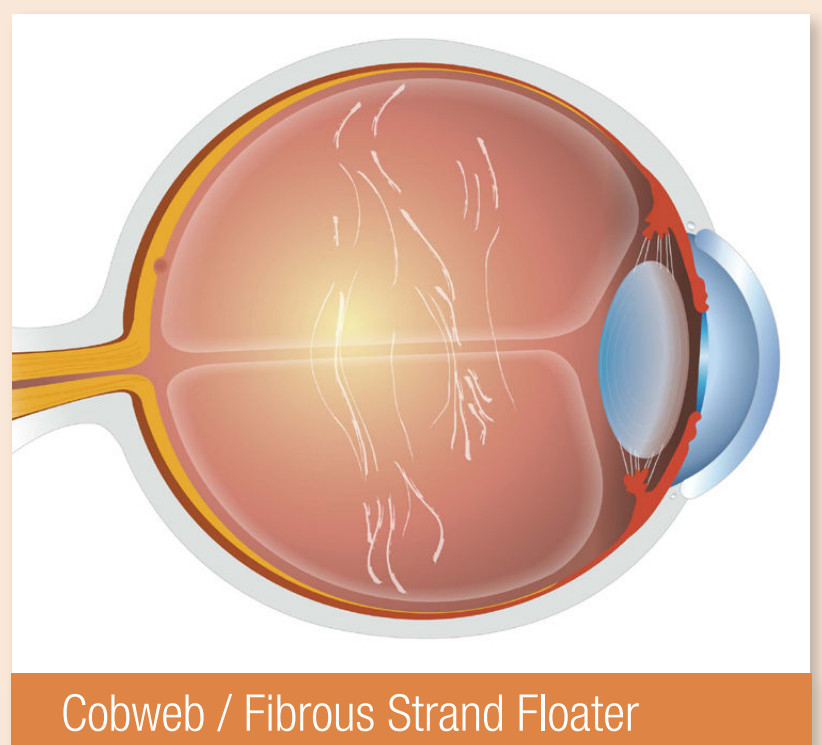
- Posterior Vitreous Detachment (PVD) occurs when the vitreous humor peels away from the retina entirely. PVD generally occurs as the eye ages and is often associated with a sudden increase in the number of floaters.
- The perception of floaters is referred to as “myodesopsia”.
- Whilst floaters are considered benign and do not generally affect visual acuity, they can negatively affect a patient’s quality of vision.
- The “Premacular Bursa” is the anatomical space found between the vitreous humor and the retina. In the majority of cases, floaters are situated in the vitreous humor. However, in young patients floaters can be found in the Premacular Bursa area, right on top of the retina. These floaters are microscopic in size, yet appear to be quite large to the patient because of their proximity to the retina. Unfortunately, the microscopic size of these floaters and their location makes them difficult to both visualize and treat.



Weiss Ring Floater



Diffuse, Cloud-Like Floater



Cobweb / Fibrous Strand Floater