

# VISION SOURCE

## Mandan



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**Q:** How do I know if I am having a retinal detachment?

**A:** The retina is the “seeing” layer of tissue that lines the inside of the eye. If it separates from the underlying anatomy, your vision can permanently be damaged or lost. Retinal detachments usually occur in the middle-aged to elderly and can be associated with high nearsightedness or due to blunt force trauma.

There are three main warning signs that a retinal detachment has occurred. **New floaters** that suddenly appear in your vision that were not there before. These are pieces of tissue that were pulled loose during the detachment. **Flashes of light** located anywhere in your vision that were not there before. These are areas of tension that are pulling on the parts of the retina that are still attached. A **curtain or veil** that blocks a portion of your vision. This is the area where your retina is not “seeing” anymore because it has detached. If you experience any of these symptoms, it is highly advisable to seek medical attention **IMMEDIATELY**. If a retinal detachment has indeed happened, the surgical outcome is typically better if it can be treated promptly.

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