

INFORMED CONSENT FLOATER LASER

What is Floater Laser Treatment (FLT)?

Floater laser is a laser treatment of the vitreous using a Nd: YAG laser. The laser vaporizes and cuts tissue and is used to reduce vitreous floaters.

During FLT the patient sits in front of the laser with his face positioned on the chin rest and the head rest. Anesthetic eye drops are applied and a contact glass is placed on the eye through which the surgeon applies the laser. The laser treatment will last for about 10 to 40 minutes and is painless because the vitreous consists of water and protein only has no sensory nerves. After the treatment most patients will see small black dots at the bottom of their visual field. These are gas bubbles that will have disappeared the next day. Please note that directly after the treatment the vision in the treated eye is dark for a few minutes. In reaction to the strong light the retina has 'switched itself off'. This is harmless and only lasts a few minutes.

FLT will not be possible if the floaters are very extensive or too close to the lens or retina to the judgement of the surgeon.

Floaters that are close to the retina or lens have a greater risk of complications. During the treatment it can appear that the floater is out of range of the laser or that it is not possible for other reasons to continue treatment. In that case the treatment will be discontinued.

Alternatives to FLT:

The available alternatives are a surgical procedure (vitrectomy) or observation (=doing nothing). A vitrectomy is widely considered a highly invasive and potentially dangerous operation. In case FLT is not possible or fails to resolve floaters a vitrectomy will still be possible as a back-up procedure.

How will FLT affect my vision and/or condition?

FLT has been shown to improve symptoms of vitreous floaters. The success rate depends on the type of floater but also personal factors have an effect

on the success rate. Some people have a higher toleration of residual floaters than others. Some people are satisfied after a 50% reduction of their floaters while others are still not satisfied after 95% of the floaters are gone. In some floater types the patient can experience a major improvement that wears off after a few days or weeks. This is a normal process during the treatment sessions and usually improves after additional treatment. It is caused by the fact that remaining parts of the original floater reform and relocate to the center of the eye. Normally these remainders are smaller than the original one. This process can be repeated several times until the floater has been reduced sufficiently. The vision will return to normal after a few hours or the day after treatment.

What are the major risks of FLT?

There is no guarantee that FLT will improve your condition. Sometimes it doesn't give the expected result. Some floater types have a higher success rate than other types. The surgeon can inform you about the success rate of your floater type.

Even though FLT is a treatment with a low risk profile unwanted side effects or complications can occur. Complications can happen right away or not until days, months, or years later. You may need more treatment or surgery to treat a complication.

This document lists the major risks of FLT to help you decide whether you are ready to accept the risks.

Major risks can include:

Elevation of eye pressure This is the reason that the eye pressure should be checked within 1-2 weeks after each treatment. If elevation occurs the treatment is (temporarily) discontinued and the pressure is treated. In rare cases a surgical procedure can be required to lower the eye pressure.

Damage to lens (cataract). This is a very rare complication that can be treated with cataract surgery with or without a vitrectomy.

Damage to the macula. As far as we know this complication has never occurred. If the macula is hit in the central part it can lead to (partial) permanent central blindness.

Damage to the retina This is a rare complication. It can occur when the peripheral retina is hit with the laser. This causes a retinal bleeding which will resolve after a few week or months. After resolution of the blood a small scar can be seen on the retina. The patient normally doesn't notice this in his vision.

Retinal tear or detachment This is a rare complication that can occur after FLT. It is treated with laser or with surgery. Please note that these complication can also occur in people with floaters that received FLT.

Complaints procedure:

We do our best to make the treatment as safe 3as possible.

If you nevertheless have a complaint about your treatment at the OMC Amstelland/Floaterlaser you can send your complaint by email to: klachten@floaterlaser.nl

In the event that a complaint is insufficiently resolved in your opinion, the OMC Amstelland/Floaterlaser has a contract with an independent external complaints committee.

You can address your complaint to:

Complaints Committee EMS Zusterplein 22
3703CB Zeist
www.klachtencommissie-ems.nl

Financial settlement:

Floater laser treatments are currently not reimbursed by Dutch health insurance companies. This may be different in other countries. In the Netherlands the costs are deductible according to the tax authorities.

Liability:

In the unlikely event that a treatment by the OMC Amstelland/Floaterlaser demonstrably led to serious damage, the OMC Amstelland/Floaterlaser has a medical liability insurance with the VVAA.

Terms and Conditions:

The general terms and conditions of the OMC Amstelland can be downloaded from the site www.floaterlaser.com

Patient’s acceptance of risks:

I have read the above information and have discussed it with my physician. I understand that it is impossible for the physician to inform me of every possible complication that may occur. My physician had told me that results cannot be guaranteed and that more treatment or surgery may be necessary. By signing below, I agree that my physician has answered all of my questions and that I understand and accept the risks, benefits, and alternatives of floater laser treatment. I have been offered a copy of this document.

I wish to have floater laser treatment on my right eye, left eye or both eyes.

Patient name:

Date of birth: - -20 (day- month- year)

Patient signature:

Date: - -20 (day- month- year)