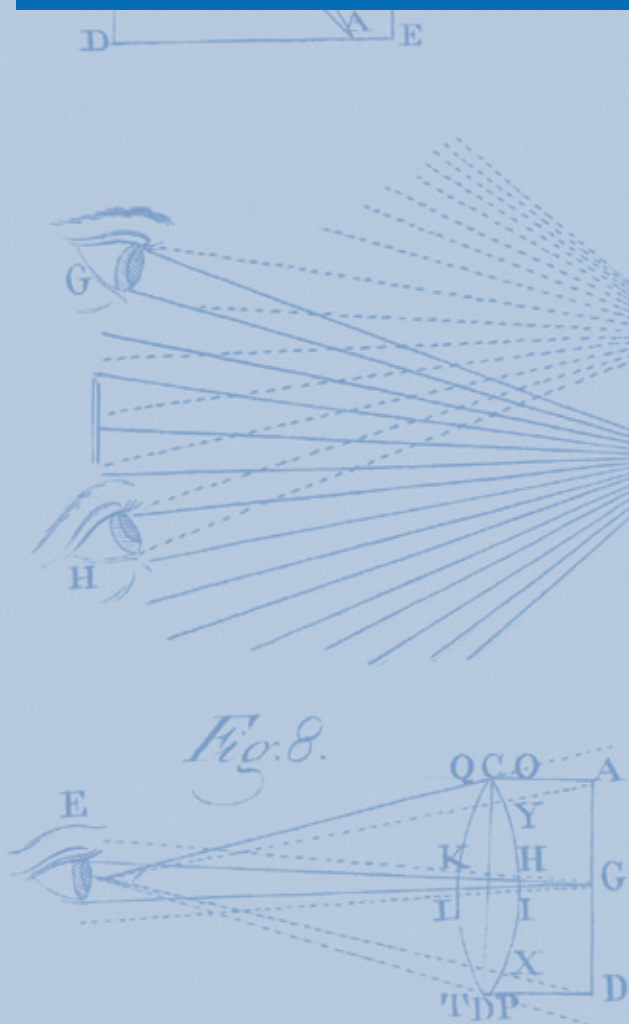


Vitrectomy Surgery



RETINA 
SPECIALTY
INSTITUTE

PRESERVING

TREATING

ADVANCING

Retina Specialty Institute is the premier retinal practice in the Southeast. Our physicians fight for the amazing gift of sight every day through clinical research and practical treatment. The Institute offers state-of-the-art clinical and surgical procedures for patients suffering from eye diseases such as:

- Macular Degeneration
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Retinal Tears, Holes and Detachments
- Epiretinal Membrane (Macular Pucker)
- Arterial and Venous Occlusions
- Complications of Cataract Surgery
- Uveitis (Inflammation in the Eye)
- Ocular Tumors
- Inherited Retinal Diseases
- Severe Eye Trauma
- Optic Nerve Disorders

Our surgeons, located throughout the Gulf Coast and Southern Alabama, are a group of world-class retina specialists who have earned an international reputation as leading retina researchers, disciplined clinical experts and caring, compassionate healers. Experience visionary retina care.



What You're About to Read

1. *About Vitrectomy Surgery*
2. *Why Would You Need It?*
3. *Before, During & After Surgery*
4. *Possible Risks*
5. *How it Works*
6. *Vision Improvement*

1

What is a Vitrectomy?

Vitrectomy is a type of eye surgery that treats disorders of the retina and vitreous. The retina is the light-sensing tissue found lining the inside back part of the eye. The vitreous is the clear, jelly-like substance that fills the inside of the eye. The vitreous is removed during vitrectomy surgery and usually replaced by a saline-type solution.

Dr. Sunil Gupta of Retina Specialty Institute worked on the Retina Advisory Committee to assist Alcon Laboratories in developing the Constellation Vision System. We are one of the first practices to acquire this state-of-the-art retinal surgical equipment.

This new technology gives extraordinary control to the surgeon in operating on the retinal surface. The Constellation reduces complication rates, length of surgical procedures as well as surgical trauma to the eye.

Why Do You Need a Vitrectomy?

Your doctor may recommend vitrectomy surgery to treat the following eye problems:

- *Retinal Detachments*
- *Wrinkling of the retina (Macular Pucker)*
- *Macular Hole (partial loss of vision for fine details)*
- *Certain problems after cataract surgery*
- *Diabetic Retinopathy, where there is bleeding and scar tissue*
- *Infection inside the eye*
- *Severe eye injury*

What Should a Patient Expect with Vitrectomy Surgery?

Before Surgery

Your doctor will decide whether local or general anesthesia is best for you. The majority of vitrectomy surgeries are performed using local anesthesia with monitored anesthesia sedation on an outpatient basis. For elective vitrectomy surgery, any blood thinners will need to be discussed with your medical doctor to see if dosage can be discontinued for five days.

Vitrectomy Surgery

The length of the operation varies from under one hour to several hours, depending on your condition. In certain situations, your retina specialist may do another surgical procedure at the same time, such as repairing a detached retina or removing a cataract. Your retina specialist does the operation while looking into your eye with a microscope.

Various miniature instruments are placed into the eye through tiny incisions in the sclera (white part of the eye).

Most retinal conditions can be treated with a minimally invasive surgery system performed through incisions which self-seal and require no sutures. All of the doctors at Retina Specialty Institute perform primarily state-of-the-art “sutureless” vitrectomy surgery at several ambulatory surgery centers and hospitals throughout the Gulf Coast.

In order to get the best possible vision for you, your retina specialist will do one or more of the following:

- *Remove all cloudy vitreous*
- *Remove any scar tissue present, attempting to return the retina to its normal position*
- *Treat any foreign object that might be in the eye*
- *Place an air or gas bubble in the eye to help the retina remain in its proper position. The bubble will slowly disappear on its own.*
- *Inject a special fluid (like silicone oil) that is later removed from the eye with another surgery.*

After Surgery

You can expect some minimal discomfort after surgery. You will need to wear an eye patch for a short time and should avoid any strenuous activity. Your retina specialist will prescribe eye drops for you and advise you when to resume normal activity.

If a gas bubble was placed in your eye, your doctor may recommend that you keep your head in a special position for a specific amount of time. With a gas bubble, or other substance in the eye, your vision will be blurry.

You cannot fly in an airplane or travel at high altitudes until the gas bubble is gone. A rapid increase in altitude can cause a dangerous rise in eye pressure.

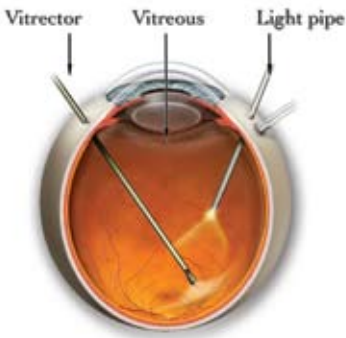
What are the Risks of Surgery?

All types of surgeries have certain risks. If your doctor has suggested vitrectomy surgery, then the benefits of surgery far outweigh the risks to your vision.

Some of the risks of vitrectomy include:

- *Infection*
- *Bleeding*
- *Retinal Detachment*
- *Poor Vision*
- *High pressure in the eye*
- *Accelerated cataract formation*

How Can Vitrectomy Improve Your Vision?



Vitrectomy surgery can often improve or stabilize your vision. The operation removes any blood or debris (from infection or inflammation) that may be blocking or blurring light as it focuses on the retina. Vitrectomy surgery removes scar tissue that can displace, wrinkle or tear the retina.

Vision is poor if the retina is not in its normal position. A foreign object may be stuck inside the eye as the result of an injury. Most foreign objects will damage vision if they are not removed.

How Much Will Your Vision Improve?

Your vision after surgery will depend on many variables, especially if your eye disease caused permanent damage to your retina before the vitrectomy. Your retina specialist will discuss your situation with you and how much improvement in your eyesight is possible.

Retina Specialty Institute has been involved in multiple clinical trials, including studies involving vitreoretinal surgery instrumentation, fluids and machinery.

Your retina specialist, surgeon or staff member can answer any questions you may have concerning vitrectomy surgery.



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