

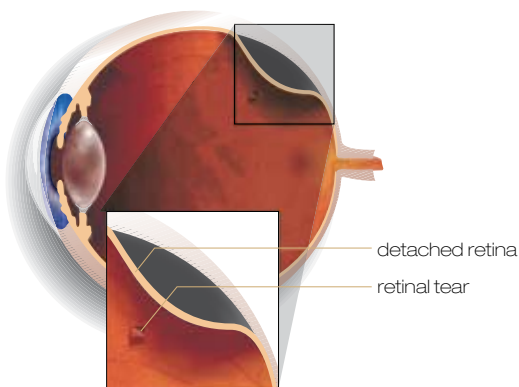
# Retinal Detachment



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# Retinal Detachment

A retinal detachment is an uncommon but serious eye condition in which the retina separates from the inner lining within the eye, often associated with holes or tears. It is a problem that occurs most frequently in the middle-aged and elderly.



Retinal detachment

## Causes of retinal detachments

There are many causes of retinal detachments but most do not have any clear precipitating factor. They are more common among patients with myopia (nearsightedness) and those with a family history of retinal detachment. In New Zealand, around 400 cases occur every year.

## Symptoms of retinal detachment

The early symptoms of a detachment may include flashes of light and the sudden appearance of floaters. Many people have floaters, which have been present for many years and are not a cause for concern. If a retinal detachment occurs, a visual field defect can usually be noticed as a “curtain” or “shadow” appearing in the peripheral vision and such a symptom should be taken seriously.



Normal vision



Vision with a curtain or shadow

**Signs and symptoms include:**

- light flashes
- 'wavy' or 'watery' vision
- veil or curtain obstructing vision
- shower of floaters that resemble spots, bugs or spider webs
- sudden decrease of vision





## Degree of urgency

Patients with retinal detachment symptoms should urgently contact their eye specialist. If the 'shadow' does not involve the central field of vision, retinal detachment repair should be carried out as soon as possible. If the central vision has already been affected the timing of surgery is less crucial.



## Surgery for retinal detachment

The surgical principles involve reattaching the retina on the inside of the eye. A laser is used to “spot weld” the retina back on and often a gas bubble is placed inside the eye to help stabilise the retina while it is healing.

If a gas bubble is used the patient’s head must be positioned in such a way that the bubble is placed where it can support the healing retina. The gas usually takes about 10 days to reabsorb and air travel is not advisable during this period.

**For more information on retinal detachment please contact our friendly specialist team.**



# Auckland Eye

## life-changing ophthalmic care

New Zealand's largest and most highly specialised Eye Centre offers:

- the best quality care as each ophthalmologist has international and specialist training in specific eye diseases and surgery techniques
- modern day stay facilities for cataract and outpatient ophthalmic surgery
- state-of-the-art laser surgery for refractive errors
- appointments throughout the Auckland and Northland regions

Auckland Eye is dedicated to providing the highest quality service in a caring environment.

From our surgical team through to front desk staff we place your requirements and comfort first. Auckland Eye is the only private sector eye centre in Auckland that has **Quality Health New Zealand** accreditation (QHNZ), for quality of patient care.

Centrally located in Remuera, near Newmarket, our main clinical and surgical facilities provide easy motorway access, off street parking and wheelchair access. Our expanding coverage includes dedicated facilities at the Apollo Clinic in Albany and surgical facilities at Shore Surgical in Milford. In addition to these we provide appointments at a wide range of locations throughout Auckland and north to Whangarei (see our website for locations).

Auckland Eye is an affiliated provider to **Southern Cross Healthcare Society.**



Affiliated Provider to



# Auckland Eye Surgeons



**Dr Stephen Best**  
FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Botany



**Dr David Pendergrast**  
FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Papakura
- Pukekohe



**Dr Dean Corbett**  
BSc, FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Albany
- Red Beach



**Dr Alison Pereira**  
FRCOphth  
FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Albany



**Dr Archie McGeorge**  
FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

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- Albany
- Takapuna
- Red Beach



**Assoc. Prof. Philip Polkinghorne**  
MD, FRANZCO

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**Dr Justin Mora**  
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**Dr Yvonne Ng**  
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Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Botany
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- Albany



**Dr Jo Sims**  
FRANZCO

Appointments available at:

- Remuera
- Albany
- Freemans Bay



**Dr Sue Ormonde**  
MD, FRCOphth  
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Appointments available at:

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