FLOATER

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As early as 1992, we were fascinated by the possibilities of modern laser technology, which today allows us to help our patients achieve perfect vision in just a few minutes, make them independent of glasses and contact lenses and thus significantly improve their quality of life. Doing this to the highest level of perfection is a passion that unites our entire team.

Respect for the trust you place in us obliges us to offer you excellent results and maximum safety at the same time.

To this end, we have assembled an experienced and highly qualified team that is unique in its constellation. In addition, we have invested exclusively in stateof-the-art technologies. As an international reference centre for leading companies in ophthalmology, we have a fundamental innovative edge.

WE DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR THE QUALITY OF RESULTS AND SECURITY YOU DESERVE FOR YOUR EYES.

The Ultra Q Reflex™ laser from the Australian company Ellex makes it possible for the first time to treat disturbing glass body opacities, also known as floaters or mouches volantes, safely and gently without surgery.



FLOATER

What are floaters?

Floaters do not usually have a pathological cause. However, they are often not as harmless as is generally assumed, because they can considerably impair the quality of life and also the productivity at work of those affected.

Especially against a light background, for example, when working at the computer, reading or looking at the blue sky or snow, this haze is clearly perceived and disturbs the quality of vision.

Because they often have the shape of a "flying mosquito", they are described - from the French - with the technical term "Mouches Volantes". However, the opacities can also have other shapes, e.g. branch-, ring- or star-shaped.

FLOATERS IMPAIR THE QUALITY OF VISION.

Those affected often experience the floaters as a massive impairment. They have to concentrate much more when working at the screen or reading and are slower because they repeatedly try to move the shadows out of their field of vision by moving their eyes or tilting their head to be able to read better.

However, since the reaction to objects moving in the periphery is an innate primal instinct, the brain unfortunately cannot or can only with difficulty block out these disturbances. The floaters can therefore hardly be ignored or specifically overlooked.

How are floaters created?

The juvenile vitreous body is perfectly transparent. It is filled with a crystal clear gel-like substance.

There are various reasons (e.g. age-related degenerative changes, high shortness of vision, injuries, etc.) that disturb the natural balance between water (98.0%) and the protein components and fine collagen fibres it contains in the vitreous body.

As a result, these fibres thicken and bind together to form light-dense structures. If these structures are so dense that they cast a shadow on the retina, they become visible to the eye and impair the quality of vision.

Since the immune system does not recognise these as abnormal, they are not broken down and can only be removed surgically.

WHAT IS LASER VITREOLYSIS?

Laser vitreolysis is an innovative and gentle procedure that uses a laser to split the floaters.

In laser vitreolysis, extremely short pulses of laser light (3 billionths of a second) are precisely irradiated into the vitreous body. The floaters absorb the laser energy, are broken up and dissolve. The tiny pieces diffuse through the cell membrane and are transported away via the blood vessels.

This safe, non-invasive procedure is performed on an outpatient basis. As a patient, you feel absolutely nothing from the treatment. THE LASER GENTLY DISSOLVES THE FLOATERS.



THE ULTRA Q REFLEX™ LASER

Floaters have been treated with YAG lasers for two decades. But even with the current high-end devices, only the front part of the vitreous body can be treated with precision and accuracy. These lasers are not precise enough in the deeper part of the vitreous body. But this is where most vitreous opacities are located.

THE ULTRA Q REFLEX™ LASER GENTLY FREES YOU FROM ANNOYING VITREOUS OPACITIES.

In addition, these lasers are very energetic and therefore the risks and side effects are so high that we, like many other colleagues, do not use them. In the past, we too only had to give our patients advice like "Try to ignore the floaters" or "I'm afraid you'll have to live with it".

With the Ultra Q Reflex™ laser from the Australian manufacturer Ellex, a gentle low-energy laser is finally available that splits the floaters with high precision without affecting adjacent structures or tissue.

Its innovative light transmission system, the so-called Reflex Technology $^{\text{TM}}$, guarantees the optimal illumination of the vitreous body and the exact alignment of the laser beam to the floaters during the treatment.



TREATMENT PROCEDURE

Laser vitreolysis is an outpatient procedure at our centre. First we dilate your pupil with the help of eye drops. Then your eye is locally anaesthetised with special eye drops and a so-called contact lens is placed on the eye. During the treatment, you sit opposite the doctor and look at a small green light with the other eye.

THE TREATMENT IS NON-INVASIVE, PAINLESS AND PERFORMED ON AN OUTPATIENT BASIS.

From a laser source in a special microscope, the invisible laser light is guided through the contact glass into your eye. The floaters are now dissolved. Meanwhile you may notice small dark particles

or shadows. These are tiny gas bubbles that can form during the laser treatment but are absorbed by the vitreous body after a short time.

Finally, you will be given antibiotic eye drops. You will not feel anything from the treatment. Depending on the number and size of the floaters, the treatment lasts between 20 and 60 minutes. You can see the success of the treatment for yourself just a few hours after the treatment, as soon as your pill has become tight again.

In most cases, two to three treatments are necessary to remove all disturbing vitreous opacities. We can perform these treatments at intervals of a few days.



After the treatment

As your pupils are still dilated after the treatment, you must not drive yourself. You may experience temporary blurred vision or a slight reddening, but this is absolutely harmless.

Exceptions

Unfortunately, not all vitreous opacities can be treated with the floater laser. Especially in young patients, the floaters are microscopically small and very close to the retina (1-2 mm distance). In this case, it may unfortunately be too early for treatment with the floater laser and this can only be carried out at a later date. Large cloud-like opacities are also not always suitable for treatment with the laser.

Costs

The total cost of the treatment (two to three treatments) is about 1,140 euros per eye. Should another treatment be necessary on the same eye, this costs approx. 455 euros.

Unfortunately, statutory health insurers generally do not pay for the treatment. The reimbursement policy of private health insurers varies greatly.



IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER
QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT
HESITATE TO CONTACT US OR
MAKE AN APPOINTMENT DIRECTLY

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