Retinal Detachment

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Retinal Detachment

A retinal detachment is a disorder where one of the major components of the eye i.e. the retina, begins to disconnect from the place it is meant to be in. This is a medical emergency and needs to be treated as one (Spandau & Tomic, 2018a).

The main thing about this disorder that it causes no pain and the patient might be unaware that it is happening. Such disorders are diagnosed by the symptoms that appear with it. Without proper recognition of the symptoms, the disorder may proceed to worsen the condition of the patient. The symptoms of the disorder include

* The patients see floaters in their visions. The floaters are small dots that appear in front of your vision and move in various patterns.
* The distorted vision which includes it being blurred.
* A deterioration in the side vision also known as peripheral vision.
* The appearance of bright light in flash form in front of the eye.
* Visibility of a shadow over the field of vision that may feel like the effect of a curtain.

The risk for the disease includes many factors that cause the retina to slide away from the normal position. Some of the main reasons and the risk factors are:

* Retina might dislocate from the position if it develops a tear and fluid collects underneath it. This forces the depositioning of the retina from the back of the eye. The main reason that this happens is because of aging and weakening of the organs (Spandau & Tomic, 2018b).
* Another reason for the retina to be detached is the development of damaged tissues at the site of the retina. This makes the retina to be displaced from its usual position. One of the major reason for such scaring of tissues is the persistence of uncontrolled diabetes and other conditions that may affect the organs of the body (Haines et al., 2018).
* As described in the first point, there is a tendency for the fluid to accumulate in the lower part of the retina. Sometimes this happens without there being a hole in the structure. This causes the same effect. Reasons for such a condition to occur involves tumors, injury, inflammation at the location of the eye or aging of the patient.

The condition is identified by an eye specialist using specialized tools and light to look into the retina. If the doctor has difficulty in viewing the patient’s eye due to bleeding then an ultrasound might be utilized to give a better view of the situation.

The treatment for the patient is based on the underlying condition and the extent to which the damage has occurred. Some of the treatment options, that are available if only a retinal tear has occurred without detachment, are:

* Use of laser surgery to weld the tear that has caused the condition.
* Method of freezing involves the use of local anesthesia paired with a cold probe that is applied to the location of the scar to help it heal and keep the retina in place.

The above methods are only viable if the detachment of the retina has not occurred. If there is suspected retinal detachment then the following procedures may be employed.

* Injection of air into the eye. The air bubble would push the center of the eye against the wall that would help secure the retina in place and relieve the pressure on the eye. This would also stop the flow of fluid into the tear developed.
* Drainage of the fluid that has accumulated in the eye and then replacing it is another option for the patients suffering from the extreme case (Falkner-Radler et al., 2011).

The overall recovery time for patients after the procedure is several months before the vision is fully restored to normal.

**References**

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