

Clinical Decision-making



SPOTS BEFORE THE EYE

Spots before the eyes



A 63-year-old male attended the clinic complaining of 'spots before the eyes'.

Spots before the eyes



This phrase is commonly used by patients to describe 'floaters' — an exaggeration of the physiological phenomenon seen when staring into the distance against a pale background such as the sky.

Spots before the eyes



Q1: Suggest causes of this symptom.

Spots before the eye



Spots before the eye

Scenario 1

Scenario 2

Scenario 1



The man reported the presence of several mobile translucent strands and specks and flashes of light in the left eye for three or four days. There was no history of trauma.

Scenario 1



Q2: The patient is myopic.
Why is this important?

Scenario 1



Q3: The visual acuity was 6/6 in each eye. Does this provide reassurance that a sight-threatening condition is not present?

Scenario 1



Q4: What is the significance of the flickering light?

Q5: What simple examination techniques should you perform?

Scenario 2



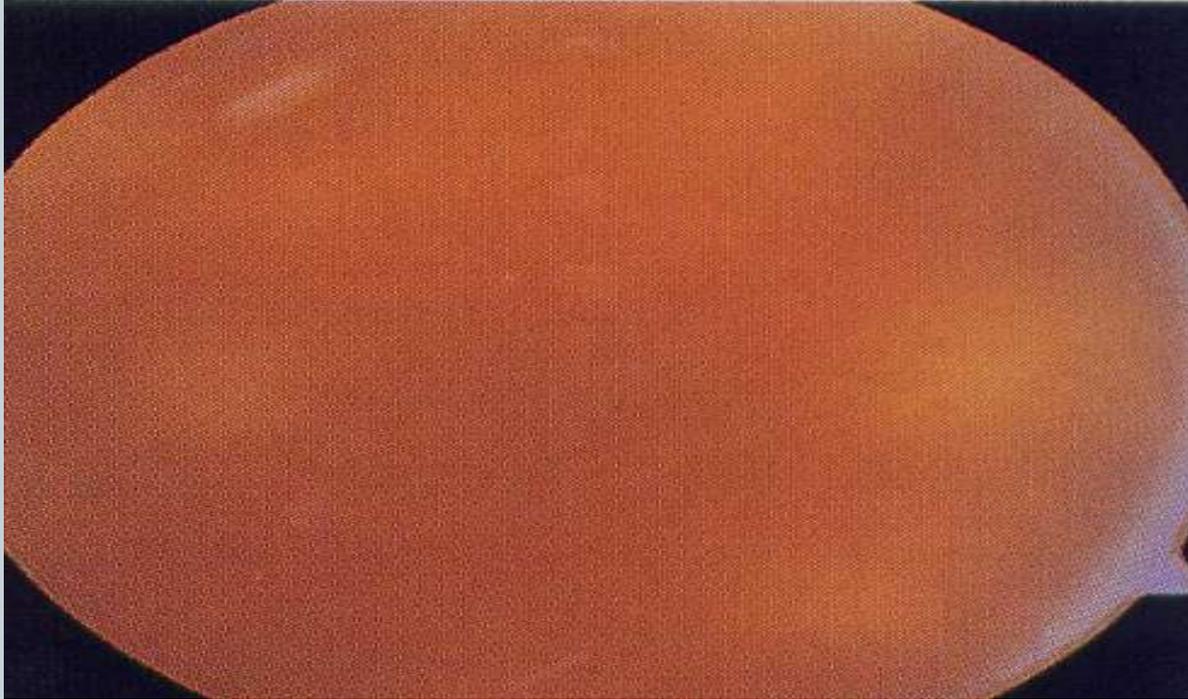
Patient is diabetic since 15 years. Vision in the left eye was moderately blurred immediately after waking up in the morning, clearing over the course of the day but with persistence of floating blobs and streaks.

Scenario 2



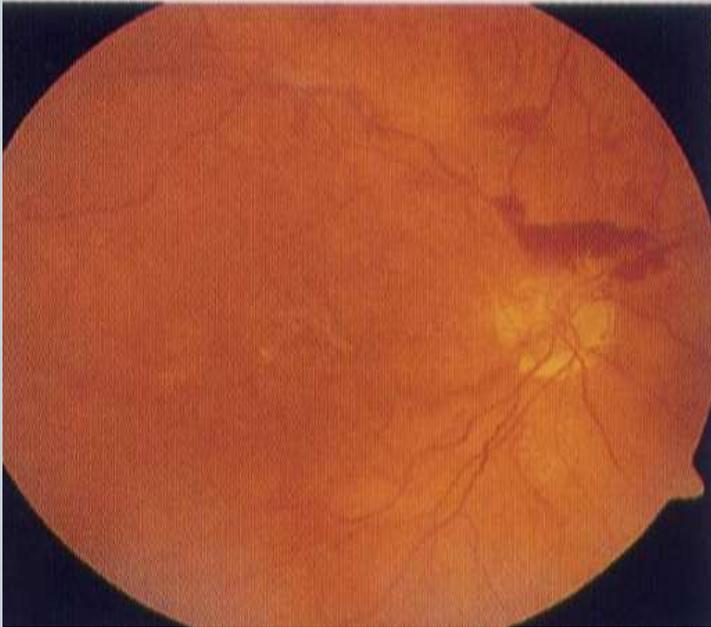
Visual acuities were 6/12 right, 6/36 left. There was no relative afferent pupillary defect.

Scenario 2



Q6: What physical sign is demonstrated here?

Scenario 2



Q7: This is the retina of the asymptomatic fellow eye. What does it show? Can you make a connection between the symptoms and signs of the two eyes? What treatment is required?

Scenario 2



Q 8: What else might cause the signs seen in the left eye?



Thank You