

## OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

### BERT score: managing patients with flashes and floaters

The **B**elfast **R**etinal **T**ear and **D**etachment **S**core (**BERT score**) is a simple to use scoring system based on the presenting features of patients with flashes and floaters that can be applied to differentiate between those with complicated and uncomplicated posterior vitreous detachments (PVDs).

Patients with complicated PVDs are much more likely to have serious retinal pathology and require urgent ophthalmology intervention .

The BERT score has been developed by Dr Donal McCullough and his team in Belfast Trust. It has been successfully trialled in secondary care and is now being trialled with primary care optometrists across Northern Ireland.

#### BERT Score

Feature	Score
Male	1
Myopia	1
Blurred vision	2
Shadow	2
Vitreous Haemorrhage	3
Tobacco Dust	4
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>3 or more: Complicated PVD</b> <b>&lt; 3: Uncomplicated PVD</b>

**Action: Complicated PVD: Urgent referral to Eye Casualty**

**Uncomplicated PVD: No referral needed unless other concerns.**

It is helpful for Eye Casualty clinicians to know the features that gave the BERT score and reason for referral decision. The new Regional Eye Casualty Referral and Feedback Form has a BERT score section. Please complete this for all Eye Casualty referrals of patients with PVD. Click on the link to access the referral form:

[Optometry Referral Information](#)

Dr McCullough and his team will use information from the referral forms to further test the BERT score. The full research paper on the BERT score was published in Eye journal on 18<sup>th</sup> June.

If you have any queries please contact an HSCB optometric adviser.