



Patient Information - Intraocular Gas Bubble

A bubble of gas has been placed in your eye to help hold the retina in position while it is healing. The bubble is acting as a splint to hold the retina in place. Your body will eventually absorb the bubble, and so you will see it becoming smaller and smaller as time goes on.

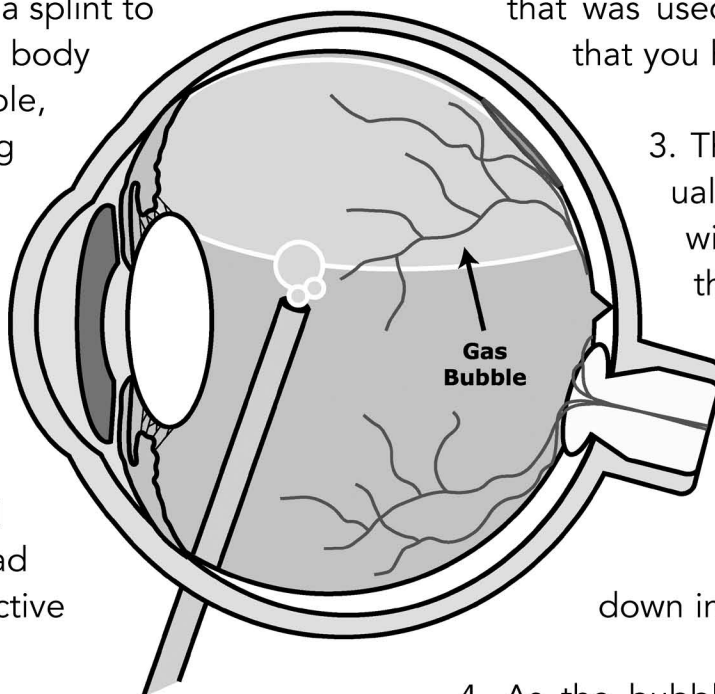
In order for the bubble to work properly, it must be pushing against the area where there is damage to your retina. You will be instructed about how to position your head so that the bubble is most effective for your condition.

If you are instructed to maintain a facedown position, you may fold your hands under your head. If you begin to notice numbness and tingling in your little finger and ring finger, this could be caused by your nerves being stretched. If this sensation starts to become a problem, you should straighten out that arm to reduce the tension on the nerves. This should alleviate the numbness.

Points to Remember about the Bubble:

1. As long as the bubble in your eye is large, your vision will be very, very blurry.
2. The bubble will eventually go away on its

own, but the time this takes may be between one and eight weeks, depending on the gas that was used and the condition that you have.



3. The bubble will gradually get smaller, and it will probably appear that it is being seen at the bottom part of your eye. In reality, it is actually at the top, but the eye turns things upside down in your vision.

4. As the bubble becomes smaller, you will begin to see it as a line across your vision. This line may jiggle when you walk as the bubble moves around your eye. Some people are bothered by the motion of the bubble in their vision when they walk or try to read. If this is disturbing to you, you may patch your eye with a soft cotton patch or buy a black patch to wear until these symptoms subside.

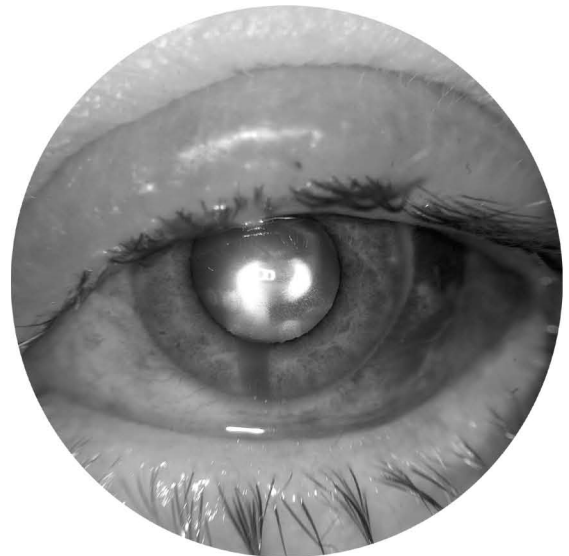
5. Eventually, the bubble may break up into a few small bubbles. This is not uncommon, and it poses no problem. The bubbles will float around and eventually dissipate.

Continued on back →

**Points to Remember about the Bubble:
(continued)**

6. You should not travel in an airplane as long as there is a gas bubble in your eye. At higher altitudes, the bubble may expand and cause the pressure in your eye to rise significantly. If there is any question about exactly when you may fly, please consult your physician.

7. If you need to undergo general anesthesia while the bubble is in your eye, you need to inform the anesthesiologist. General anesthesia may cause the gas bubble to expand increasing the pressure in your eye.



It is extremely important to maintain the facedown position if instructed to do so by your physician. The success of the surgery is largely dependent on the gas bubble being in the correct location.

For more information regarding treatments and diseases of the eye, please visit our website at tri-stl.com.

To make an appointment at one of our convenient locations, call: 314-367-1181 or 800-888-0011.

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