



# Advancing Eye Care with Local Retinal Detachment Repair

Until recently, patients in Northwestern Ontario experiencing simple retinal detachment had to travel by car to Winnipeg or to Toronto for treatment. These journeys are especially difficult given the urgency of treatment to prevent permanent vision loss, winter travel conditions across northern highways and post-surgery requirements where patients must remain face-down during travel, making the return trip extremely challenging.

Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) can now perform simple retinal detachment repair surgeries, reducing the need for patients to travel long distances for care. Dr. Alex Pisig, a TBRHSC ophthalmologist and vitreoretinal surgeon, worked together with his colleagues at the Lions Vision Care Centre, TBRHSC administration, and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation to bring in donor-funded surgical gas canisters to make local treatment available.



## **Dr. Alex Pisig**, Ophthalmologist

Dr. Alex Pisig, MD, is a vitreoretinal surgeon with extensive training in medical and surgical retina, including fellowships at Harvard Medical School and the University of British Columbia. He has also conducted retina research at the University of Hawaii and completed his medical degree at the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines. His research includes publications on biomarkers of diabetic retinopathy, LASIK, and scleral-fixed intraocular lenses. He started at the Lions Vision Care Centre TBRHSC in July 2025 providing comprehensive eye care as staff Ophthalmologist and currently serves as an Assistant Professor at NOSM University.

## **Know the Signs of Retinal Detachment**

Retinal detachment is a serious medical emergency that can lead to permanent vision loss if not treated quickly.

### **Symptoms may include sudden:**

- Streaks of floaters and/or flashes of light,
- Blurred or foggy vision,
- A shadow or “curtain” across part of your vision

*If you experience these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately.*



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