Diseases and Surgery
of the Retina and Vitreous

SOUTHEASTERN RETINA ASSOCIATES

Diseases and Surgery
of the Retina and Vitreous
The Region’s Leading Experts for Comprehensive Retina Care

When it comes to complex vitreoretinal cases, Southeastern Retina Associates (SERA) is the most experienced team in the East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Northern Georgia regions. We are a state-of-the-art ophthalmological practice specializing in diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases of the retina, macula and vitreous of the eye.

The vitreous is the clear gel-like substance that fills the eye and the retina is the delicate layer of tissue in the back of the eye that collects and focuses the images that enter your eye. The macula is a small area of nerve tissue in the retina and helps you see fine details clearly. Diseases affecting these parts of the eye can interfere with our ability to see and negatively impact quality of life.

Our 14 physicians at Southeastern Retina Associates treat these conditions, including macular degeneration, macular holes, diabetic retinopathy, detachment and tears of the retina, vitreous hemorrhage, and other vitreoretinal disease.

A Tradition of Excellence

For almost 35 years, our specialist physicians have demonstrated excellence in treatment of vision-threatening diseases. Our doctors and professional staff are committed to providing individualized attention and the best care possible—all in a comfortable and compassionate environment.

At Southeastern Retina Associates you can expect:

- The highest quality of specialized care
- Full expertise based on almost 35 years in medical and surgical practice
- Convenient office locations
- State-of-the-art equipment
- Treatment options, and clinical research trials not available at other practices

Your vision needs are top priority as we strive to provide the highest level of quality medical and surgical care possible.

“We are a state-of-the-art ophthalmological practice specializing in diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases of the retina, macula and vitreous of the eye.”
State-of-the-Art Diagnosis
We use the latest technology available to deliver accurate diagnosis and effective treatment, including photography and digital imaging.

**Digital angiography:**
Digital imaging uses a computerized camera to instantaneously view blood circulation in your retina. In digital angiography, a fluorescent dye is injected into your arm and photographed as it passes through the blood vessels in your eye, allowing the doctor to assess the circulation.

**Optical coherence tomography:**
Our imaging technology lets our retina specialists accurately diagnose and treat retinal diseases. We are committed to integrating multiple state-of-the-art techniques that allow our doctors to see structural and functional changes in the back of the eye at a microscopic level.

Advanced Clinical Research
Southeastern Retina Associates physicians have been leading clinical trials, not available at other practices, for more than 15 years and continue to advance leading edge research to stay abreast of the latest refinements in surgical technique and scientific discovery. Patient participation is always voluntary.

These research efforts help make new, more effective treatments and drugs available sooner to patients. One example, Lucentis® therapy, has gone from an experimental approach to become the accepted treatment for age-related macular degeneration.

Our Vitreoretinal Specialists
Our 14 physicians are specially trained medical doctors as well as skilled surgeons in the field of retinal and vitreous ophthalmology. They are the most referred-to specialists in the East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Northern Georgia Regions for complex retina cases.

They have met the stringent requirements of medical school, internship, ophthalmology residency, vitreoretinal fellowship, and state licensure. All are board certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology. Their credentials include academic achievement and clinical professorships.
Nicholas G. Anderson, M.D.

Medical School
University of Tennessee College of Medicine

Internship
Methodist Hospital System, Memphis, TN

Ophthalmology Residency
Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Retinal Fellowship
Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Academic Affiliation
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee Medical Center at Knoxville

Richard I. Breazeale, M.D.

Medical School
University of Tennessee College of Medicine

Internship
University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Chattanooga Unit

Ophthalmology Residency
Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA

Retinal Fellowship
University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine
D. Allan Couch, M.D.

Medical School
Mercer University School of Medicine
Macon, GA

Internship
General Surgery,
Georgia Baptist Medical Center
Atlanta, GA

Ophthalmology Residency
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Retinal Fellowship
West Virginia University,
Morgantown, WV

Howard L. Cummings, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Medical School
University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas
Dallas, TX

Internship
Boston University Medical Center
Boston, MA

Ophthalmology Residency
Greater Baltimore Medical Center
Baltimore, MD

Retinal Fellowship
Retina and Vitreous Associates of Kentucky
Lexington, KY
Francis Char DeCroos, M.D.

**Medical School**
Duke University Medical School

**Internship**
Christiana Care Health Systems

**Ophthalmology Residency**
Duke Eye Care, Durham, NC

**Research Fellowship**
Duke Reading Center, Durham, NC

**Retinal Fellowship**
Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA

Joseph M. Googe Jr., M.D.

**Medical School**
University of Tennessee College of Medicine

**Ophthalmology Residency**
Louisiana State University

**Retinal Fellowship**
Harvard University, Retina Associates and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

**Academic Affiliation**
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee Medical Center
**Joseph M. Gunn, M.D.**

**Medical School**  
University of Tennessee College of Medicine  
Knoxville, TN

**Internship**  
University of Tennessee College of Medicine  
Chattanooga Unit

**Ophthalmology Residency**  
University of Tennessee  
Chattanooga, TN

**Retinal Fellowship**  
Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary,  
University of Illinois at Chicago  
Chicago, IL

**John C. Hoskins, M.D.**

**Medical School**  
University of Tennessee College of Medicine

**Ophthalmology Residency**  
Brook Army Medical Center,  
San Antonio, TX

**Retinal Fellowship**  
Harvard University, Retina Associates and  
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary

**Academic Affiliation**  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology,  
University of Tennessee Medical Center
Cris Larzo, M.D.

Medical School
West Virginia University
School of Medicine

Internship
Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, Ruby Memorial Hospital, West Virginia University Hospitals

Ophthalmology Residency & Retinal Fellowship
West Virginia University, West Virginia University Eye Institute, Morgantown, WV

Tod A. McMillan, M.D.

Medical School
East Tennessee State University

Ophthalmology Residency
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Retinal Fellowship
Schepens Retina Associates of Boston & Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary of Harvard Medical School

Academic Affiliation
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee Medical Center
James H. Miller Jr., M.D.

Medical School
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Ophthalmology Residency
University of Florida

Retinal Fellowship
West Virginia University, University Health Sciences Center

Academic Affiliation
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee Medical Center

Stephen L. Perkins, M.D.

Medical School
& Ophthalmology Residency
Duke University

Internship
Internal Medicine, University of Virginia

Retinal Fellowship
Medical College of Wisconsin

Academic Affiliation
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, Div. of Ophthalmology, University of Tennessee Medical Center
Rohan Shah, M.D.

Medical School
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

Internship
Louis Weiss Memorial Hospital, Chicago, IL

Ophthalmology Residency
Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, Chicago, IL

Retinal Fellowship
Vanderbilt Eye Institute, Nashville, TN

R. Keith Shuler Jr., M.D.

Medical School
Emory University School of Medicine
Atlanta, GA

Internship
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Research Fellowship
Emory University School of Medicine

Ophthalmology Residency
Emory University School of Medicine

Retinal Fellowship
Vitreoretinal Disease and Surgery, Duke University
When You Come to Our Office

Our fully equipped, conveniently located offices are open 8 to 5, with patient care available 24/7/365 if necessary. We make every effort to see you in the office of your choice, but in emergency situations you may be seen at a different location.

Your first visit:
Includes a thorough examination of your eyes and questions about your general health—it may take up to three hours. We will dilate your eyes to allow close examination of the retina; please arrange for a ride home after the dilation.

Open communication:
Your diagnosis will be fully explained to you and your family. If lab tests are required we will call with the results. We will explain the plan for treatment and keep your referring physician fully informed about your progress. Please call the office if you have any questions at any time.

Surgery and hospitalization:
Your doctor may choose to perform surgery in the office, or at a surgery center or hospital. If you require surgery or hospitalization, you will be told exactly what to expect. The most common surgeries are vitrectomy, macular hole surgery, diabetic retinopathy surgery, laser retinal surgery, pneumatic retinopexy, and scleral buckling.

Telephone Calls

We encourage you to call during office hours with any questions about your condition and treatment. Your call is important.

Please understand that the doctor and the doctor’s assistant may be with a patient or in surgery. If your call is not an emergency, please leave a message and the doctor or doctor’s assistant will return your call.

To renew prescriptions:
Call during office hours (prescriptions are not renewed on weekends) and your doctor will call in your prescription if appropriate.

After office hours:
Call any of our offices and our on-call physician will return your call. A doctor is on call 24 hours a day for emergencies.

Insurance and Payments

Please bring your insurance card to each office visit. We accept Medicare, Medicaid, and most commercial insurance. Please feel free to talk to one of our insurance specialists if you have questions about your bill, insurance, or any financial hardships you may face.

If you are unsure whether we are on your insurance plan, please call the insurance specialist for your area (see numbers next page). If we are not a participating provider, we may be able to work out arrangements with your insurance company.

Many insurance plans require a referral to us from a family physician or other doctor.
Please check with your plan to help get this authorization before your visit.

Please be prepared to pay copayments, deductibles, and any services not covered by insurance at the time of your visit. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express and Care Credit at all our offices.

**Insurance Specialists**
Knoxville area: 865-584-4108
Chattanooga area: 423-756-1512
Tri-Cities area: 423-578-4364

**Your Rights as a Patient**
At Southeastern Retina Associates, we are committed to maintaining and handling your health information privately and responsibly. Although your medical record is the physical property of SERA, the information belongs to you.

**You have the right as a patient to:**
- Receive a paper copy of SERA’s Privacy Policies on request
- Inspect and copy your health record
- Amend your health record
- Obtain a listing of all disclosures of your protected health information
- Request communication of your health information by alternative means or at an alternative location
- Request restrictions on certain uses and disclosures of your records
- Revoke any authorization of use or disclosure of information that you may have approved, except to the extent that the action has already occurred

SERA reserves the right to change our practices for maintaining protected health information. Should our information practices change, we will advise you of the changes by mail, or by email if you agree to receive it in that way.

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**Appointment Information**

Initials: _________

Day: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________

Time: ______________________________

Doctor: ____________________________

Location: ___________________________

Patient: ____________________________

If unable to keep this appointment, please call the doctor’s office (24-hour notice required).

Knoxville area: 888-566-9738
Chattanooga area: 800-365-0105
Tri-Cities area: 888-773-7287

[www.southeasternretina.com](http://www.southeasternretina.com)
The region’s leading experts for comprehensive retina care

Knoxville Area Locations
888-566-9738
- Baptist Eye Institute
- Crossville Office
- Harriman Office
- Maryville Office
- Morristown Office
- Oak Ridge Office
- Sevierville Office
- Southeast Eye Center - Powell
- Tennessee Valley Eye Center (TVEC)
- University of Tennessee Medical Center
- Weisgarber Office

Chattanooga Area Locations
800-365-0105
- Chattanooga Office
- Cleveland Office
- Dalton, GA Office
- Rome, GA Office

Tri-Cities Locations
888-773-7287
- Abingdon, VA Office
- Bristol, VA Office
- Johnson City Office
- Kingsport Office

Knoxville area: 888-566-9738
Chattanooga area: 800-365-0105
Tri-Cities area: 888-773-7287
www.southeasternretina.com