



BPH Medicine and Cataract Surgery

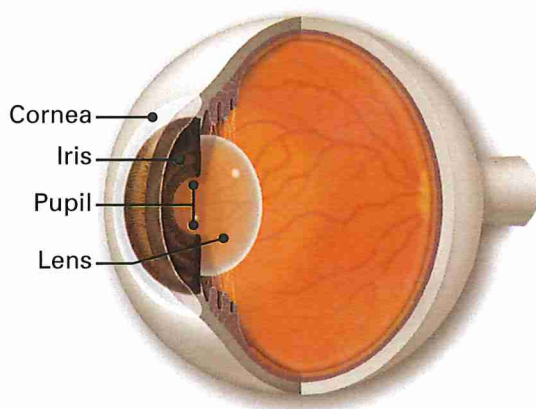
BPH medicine and cataract surgery

Do you take medicine for BPH (an enlarged prostate) and plan to have cataract surgery? If you do, tell your ophthalmologist before your surgery that you take this medicine. BPH medicines (known as alpha-blockers) can affect eye muscles during surgery. If your eye surgeon knows you take them, he or she can prepare for these effects.

Eye Words to Know

BPH: A condition that affects a man's prostate gland. It is also known as "benign prostatic hyperplasia" or "enlarged prostate."

Cataract: When the naturally clear lens inside the eye becomes cloudy. Surgery is the only way to remove a cataract.



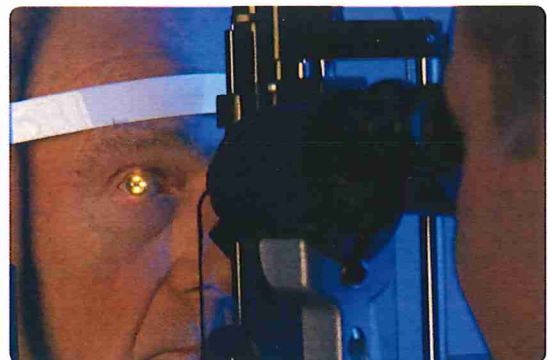
Eye anatomy

How can BPH medicine affect your eyes in surgery?

The iris (colored part of your eye) has muscles. Some of these muscles control the size of your pupil (the black circle inside the iris). During cataract surgery, alpha-blockers may keep your pupil from getting bigger (dilating). Or they can cause the pupil to suddenly get smaller (constrict). These problems are called "intraoperative floppy iris syndrome," or IFIS. IFIS is a problem during cataract surgery because your pupil needs to be widely dilated. If your eye surgeon is not prepared for this problem, your surgery might be more complicated.

Talk to your ophthalmologist about your medications.

If you plan to have cataract surgery, tell your ophthalmologist if you take BPH medicines. That way he or she can adjust how your eyes should be dilated for surgery.



A cataract patient having a slit-lamp exam.

Are you taking an alpha-blocker for enlarged prostate?

Alpha-blocker drugs are often prescribed to treat BPH. Let your ophthalmologist know before cataract surgery if you are on BPH medication.

You may know the alpha-blocker by its generic or brand name:

- tamsulosin (Flomax®)
- terazosin (Hytrin®)
- doxazosin (Cardura®)
- prazosin (Minipress®)
- alfuzosin (Uroxatral®)

Get more information about cataract surgery from EyeSmart—provided by the American Academy of Ophthalmology—at aao.org/cataract-surgery-link.

Summary

Medicines for enlarged prostate (BPH) can affect eye muscles during cataract surgery. Before having cataract surgery, tell your ophthalmologist if you take, or have taken, prostate medicine. If your eye surgeon knows this, he or she can take steps to avoid certain complications during surgery.

If you have any questions about your eyes or your vision, speak with your ophthalmologist. He or she is committed to protecting your sight.

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