





[AboutLawsuits.com](#)

News and Information about Personal Injury Lawsuits

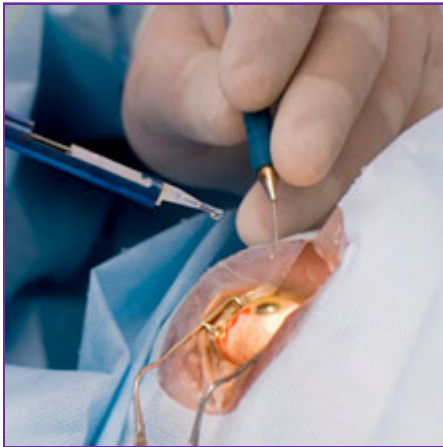
Today's Date: Wednesday, May 27th, 2009

- [RSS](#)
- [| Contact a Lawyer](#)
- [Home](#)
- [Latest News](#)
- [Lawsuits](#)
- [Recalls](#)
- [Injuries](#)
- [About](#)

[Flomax Side Effects Lead to Call for Cataract Surgery Screening](#)

[SHARE](#)    

May 27th, 2009 • Filed Under: [News](#) • [No Comments](#)



Following a recent study that linked [Flomax to cataract surgery complications](#), an eye surgeon is calling for doctors to have their patients screened by an ophthalmologist before starting treatment with the urinary drug or similar medications.

[Flomax](#) (tamsulosin) is an elective medication used to treat urinary problems in men with enlarged prostates, which reduces difficulties like frequent urination, urgent need to urinate and waking up

during the night.

A study published last week in the [Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\)](#) indicates that Flomax side effects may double the risk of older men developing serious eye complications after cataract surgery, known as Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS). This can lead to retinal detachment, iris prolapse and other serious eye problems.

According to a letter to the editor in this month's issue of [Eyenet](#), published by the American Academy of Ophthalmology, Dr. Cary M. Silverman, Medical Director of Eyecare 20/20 in East Hanover, New Jersey, indicates that urologists should have their patients screened by an ophthalmologist for cataract surgery, so that they can have any necessary surgery before being placed on Flomax.

"If the urologist is considering starting a patient on an alpha blocker to treat urinary symptoms, a baseline exam from the ophthalmologist should be considered prior to treatment," Dr. Silverman wrote. "If a cataract is detected, it might make sense to treat the cataract prior to the initiation of alpha blocker therapy."

Dr. Silverman has started a petition among ophthalmologists aimed at making his suggestion a standard medical practice.

Cataract surgery is the most common surgery performed in the United States, with about 2 million surgeries every year, especially among older individuals.

Flomax, which is manufactured by Boehringer Ingelheim, is a widely used medication among older men, with nearly three quarters of men being effected by an enlarged prostate by age 70. In 2008, Flomax generated sales in excess of \$1 billion.

The JAMA study looked at nearly 100,000 men over 65 years old, and found that 7.5 percent of those taking Flomax during the 14 days before cataract surgery developed Interoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome (IFIS), compared to less than 3 percent of men who did not use the medication. While the [Flomax cataract surgery complications](#) were most severe when the drug was used two weeks before cataract surgery, the study suggests Flomax can cause problems even when patients have ceased using it up to a year before surgery.

Dr. Silverman is not the first medical professional to call for action after the study's publication. In an editorial that accompanied the article in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, Dr. Alan H. Friedman, from the Departments of Ophthalmology and Pathology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, suggested that a more stringent warning label for Flomax was needed.

Currently, Flomax warnings only include a general precaution about the possibility of IFIS. Dr. Friedman indicated that the data on the risk of the Flomax eye complications should be re-examined to determine whether a "black box" warning is necessary to warn ophthalmic surgeons and the public about taking the medication before cataract surgery.

Tags: [Cataract Surgery](#), [Flomax](#), [Floppy Iris Syndrome](#)

Post Your Comments

Your Name: (required)

Email: (valid email required)

Shared Comments: Share information you wish to be published on this page...

I authorize the above comments to be posted on this page?

Yes

No

If you wish to have an attorney review your comments and contact you if you have a potential case, please provide additional contact information which will not be published and will be confidential:

Contact Phone #:

Alternate Phone #:

Private Comments: Provide additional information about your case which will only be submitted to the attorney reviewing your case...

Submit



-
- - [Featured Lawsuits](#)
 - [Popular Articles](#)
 - [Tags and Archives](#)

Featured Lawsuits

- [Hydroxycut Lawsuits](#)
- [Defective Chinese Drywall Lawsuits](#)
- [Denture Cream Adhesive Lawsuits](#)
- [Reglan Lawsuits](#)
- [Seroquel Lawsuits](#)
- [Fleet Phospho-soda Prep Lawsuits](#)
- [Yamaha Rhino ATV Lawsuits](#)
- [Shoulder Pain Pump Lawsuits](#)
- [Levaquin Lawsuit](#)
- [Chantix Lawsuits](#)

Popular Articles

- [Peanut Butter Salmonella Recall Expanded to Include Crackers, Cookies](#)
- [Lehman Brothers Class Action Lawsuit Filed](#)
- [Seroquel Lawsuits](#)
- [Mylicon Recall: Infants' Gas Relief Drops Could Contain Metal Fragments](#)
- [Lean Cuisine Recall: Meals Could Be Contaminated with Pieces of Plastic](#)
- [GM Recalls 1.5 Million Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac Vehicles](#)
- [Levaquin Lawsuit](#)
- [FDA Warns of Weight Loss Pills and Dietary Supplements with Undeclared Drugs](#)
- [Mentor ObTape Vaginal Sling Lawsuits](#)
- [Oxycodone and Morphine Among Dozens of Drug Recalls](#)

Tags and Archives

• Subscribe for Daily Updates

- Subscribe by [RSS](#) or Request Email Updates:

• Recent Comments

- Should there be a class action lawsuit against Enfamil? I trusted Enfamil Next Step Lipil to give to my son ...
William | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- Ditto on all of the preceding comments. When will this nightmare end? Does anyone have any idea on ...
Linda | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I THINK IM SICK FROM IT..IVE BEEN ON IT FOR ABOUT 8WKS.LOST SOME WEIGHT, AND BEEN EXERCISING LIKE HELL. BUT ...
DANNY | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I have a 2001 Chevy Impala. I have had one previous engine compartment fire in 2008 with subsequent repairs ...
D. Bozzelli | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I had (2) hip replacements through the VA Hospital in Durham N.C one replacement was in 2001 and the other was ...
MICHAEL | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- Why are 1.3 million workers still being exposed if we are clearly aware of the danger at this time in ...
William | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- i have been useing fixodent for 40 years.
patricia | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I have been using poly grip for about 24 years .Ihave noticed that I have beenhaving a lot of pain ...
Ladonia | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I BOUGHT ONE OF THE HOUSE THAT WAS BUILTED IN 2006. WE MOVED IN THE HOUSE ON NOV,07. WE JUST ...
gennies | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)
- I got real sick,but my doctor couldn"t tell me what was going on.
hillery | May 25, 2009 | [More](#)

© 2009. Copyright [AboutLawsuits.com](#). All rights reserved.

Site Sponsored By: [Saiontz & Kirk, P.A.](#)