

## **BENIGN PROSTATIC HYPERPLASIA (BPH) & CATARACT SURGERY**

Certain medications known as **alpha-blockers** are commonly used to treat men with an enlarged prostate from a condition called **benign prostatic hyperplasia**.

These alpha-blocker drugs include:

- **tamsulosin (Flomax)**
- **terazosin (Hytrin)**
- **doxazosin (Cardura)**
- **alfuzosin (Uroxatral).**

These medications work by relaxing a type of muscle, called smooth muscle, in the bladder and prostate. This helps with urination.

### **HOW CAN BPH MEDICATIONS AFFECT EYE SURGERY?**

Alpha-blocker drugs may affect the smooth muscle within the iris that controls the size of the pupil. During cataract surgery, your ophthalmologist wants your pupil to stay as widely dilated as possible. Alpha-blockers may prevent the pupil from dilating adequately, or may cause the pupil to suddenly constrict. This condition is called **intraoperative floppy iris syndrome (IFIS)**. It can make cataract surgery more complicated. Fortunately, these BPH medications do not cause any other problems with the eyes.

### **HOW IS IFIS TREATED?**

If you are having eye surgery, it is important that you tell your ophthalmologist if you are taking medications for BPH. The medications can be stopped a short time before surgery, and precautions can be taken during surgery.