



**OPHTHALMIC
CONSULTANTS**
of the Capital Region

September 19, 2016

Dear

People who have had glaucoma filtration surgery are prone to infection of the filtration bleb. The infection can sometimes involve the inside of the eye and blind it.

Last week, new information has emerged indicating that a CPAP mask, used for sleep apnea, could promote a devastating eye infection following Trabeculectomy. It appears that very aggressive mouth bacteria infect the eye via the airflow from the CPAP mask. If these mouth bacteria gain access into the eye it could lead to blindness and loss of the eye within one to several days!!!

Thus, if you have had trabeculectomy surgery any time in the past, we strongly advise you to stop using the CPAP mask, and contact your physician that prescribed you with the CPAP mask to explore alternatives to the CPAP mask. It is possible, but not proven, that using other types of devices for sleep apnea that do not allow air flow towards the eye at any time, may be a safer alternative.

The warning signs of infection for **ALL** patients **anytime** after trabeculectomy are:

R-redness and discharge

S-sensitivity to light

V-vision decrease

P-pain.

If you have any of these symptoms, RSVP (call us) right away.

Please call Brandi at 518-703-3102, Sheri at 518-221-8532 or Lisa at 518-268-1974 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Nalini Madiwale, M.D.

Glaucoma Consultation, Laser and Surgery

www.OphthalmicConsultants.com