

OCB VISIONS



October 2020

Advances in Glaucoma

MicroInvasive Glaucoma Surgery (MIGS) may be a good alternative for some glaucoma patients

Patients now have more options than ever before when it comes to treating glaucoma. Minimally invasive glaucoma surgical procedures (MIGS) provide patients with a safer alternative to traditional glaucoma surgery and may be a good option for patients who have difficulties taking multiple eye drop medications daily. Glaucoma has been referred to as “the silent thief of vision” because those who develop this disease begin to experience peripheral vision loss that goes unnoticed until it is advanced. The only way to detect glaucoma before it results in permanent vision loss is through an eye exam, so be sure to schedule yours if you have not already. If any of your family members have been diagnosed with glaucoma, you are at greater risk for it.

In patients with the most common type of glaucoma, open-angle glaucoma, channels that normally drain fluid from the eye become blocked, causing eye pressure to increase. Higher than normal pressure can damage the optic nerve, causing irreversible vision loss. With MIGS, eye surgeons implant a tiny device, or devices, in the eye that open up the blocked channels, restoring normal eye pressure. There are several types of devices, offering a variety of options. OCB has been on the forefront of advancing care for glaucoma and is one of the first to implant these devices as they become available. Most recently, OCB became the first in New England to implant the new "iStent Inject W" by Glaukos! To learn more, please follow up with your OCB glaucoma specialist at your next visit.

Learn more about [**GLAUCOMA CARE**](#)

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

FAQS of the month

Q: Is it Pink Eye or Covid 19?

A: A new study finds that pink eye may be a symptom of the coronavirus in kids. The study, published in the medical journal *JAMA Ophthalmology*, suggests that children may experience eye-related symptoms of COVID-19 more often than adults. But, ophthalmologists say, if your child develops pink eye, it's more likely not the coronavirus. Pink eye is characterized by red, itchy eyes and it occurs commonly in children. Eye symptoms alone are probably not a sign of the virus. But if your child has pink eye and has been exposed to the virus, or if they have other symptoms, such as a fever or cough, please consider having them tested.



Q: What are the differences between symptoms of the flu and COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 and the flu have many signs and symptoms in common, including fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, tiredness, sore throat, runny nose, muscle aches, headache or nausea and vomiting. One distinct symptom of COVID-19 is the loss of taste and smell. Red eyes can also occur with COVID-19, but it is not a common symptom. Because COVID-19 and the flu have similar symptoms, it can be hard to diagnose which condition you have based on your symptoms alone. If you are experiencing these symptoms, you are encouraged to call your primary care physician, who can offer you testing.

Q: Are the doctors and staff at OCB screened for Covid-19 in the same way patients are? What other safety measures are you taking to protect patients?

A: Each day before they are permitted to work, all OCB doctors and staff members are required to attest to being symptom-free and to have followed state travel guidelines. Many additional safety protocols are in place and are strictly followed at all OCB practice locations. All premises are cleaned throughout the day using disinfection protocols recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. (CDC). To learn more, see [**SAFETY PROTOCOLS**](#). You can also view a replay of our webinar on patient safety [**here**](#).

New effective treatment for dry eye

Are your fall allergies triggering symptoms of dry eye? A new treatment has become available at OCB that may help. Intense Pulsed Light (IPL) therapy, which has traditionally been used by dermatologists to

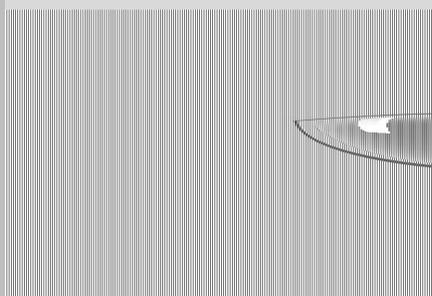
treat rosacea, acne and sun damage, has proven to be effective for those with more severe cases of dry eye, who have had little success with other measures, such as artificial tears and prescription drops.

[Read more of this article from our summer newsletter.](#) on page 2.

[Learn more about dry eye services](#)



BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT



Skip the costume contact lenses on Halloween

This year, Halloween celebrations may be headed online, but teens may still be encouraged to try out colored costume contact lenses. Ophthalmologists have seen the damage done by these kinds of lenses and want to warn parents to be on the lookout for costume contacts lenses as they are often sold without a doctor's prescription, which is illegal in the United States. Packaging that claims "one size fits all" or "no need to see an eye doctor" is wrong. Non-prescription costume contacts can cut, scratch, and infect your eye if they do not fit exactly right. Many have suffered from corneal abrasions, corneal ulcers, and potentially blinding bacterial infections such as keratitis due to wearing ill fitting contacts. If you must wear costume contacts, visit your eye doctor first to get a proper prescription. Wishing all of our patients and families a safe and happy Halloween!



OCB named Best Ophthalmologist by Cape Cod Times



Thank you to the readers of the Cape Cod Times for honoring OCB with a First Place distinction for "Best Ophthalmologist" in the 2020 Cape Cod's Best Awards. We are very honored by this recognition and are proud to have been part of the Cape Cod community for more than 25 years!

Sign up for Patient Gateway!

Patient Gateway is a free online tool that is available to all OCB patients. It allows you to safely and securely view your test results, manage appointments and message your care team directly--all in one convenient location. It is even accessible on your smartphone via mobile app. Visit PatientGateway.com to enroll today!

**Patient Gateway is not intended for emergency situations.*

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