

OCB VISIONS

Spring 2023

Strategies to overcome allergies and dry eye



We are approaching that time of year when pollen counts begin to rise, and irritated eyes become more commonplace. If you are like many who experience eye symptoms such as itchiness, excessive tearing, dryness, burning or redness, it may be tough to know if you suffer from dry eye or seasonal allergies or both. How can

one tell the difference? OCB's **Mina Farahani, MD** provides some guidance on how to identify allergies vs. dry eye and offers treatment advice **[HERE](#)**

Dr. Sauer answers your glaucoma questions

Glaucoma affects more than 2.7 million Americans aged 40 and older. It has no symptoms in its early stages. In most cases, blindness caused by glaucoma is preventable if it is detected early through an eye exam. Still, a diagnosis of glaucoma can be overwhelming, even when caught early. OCB glaucoma specialist **Theodor Sauer, MD, MPH** answers common questions patients have upon learning that they have glaucoma.

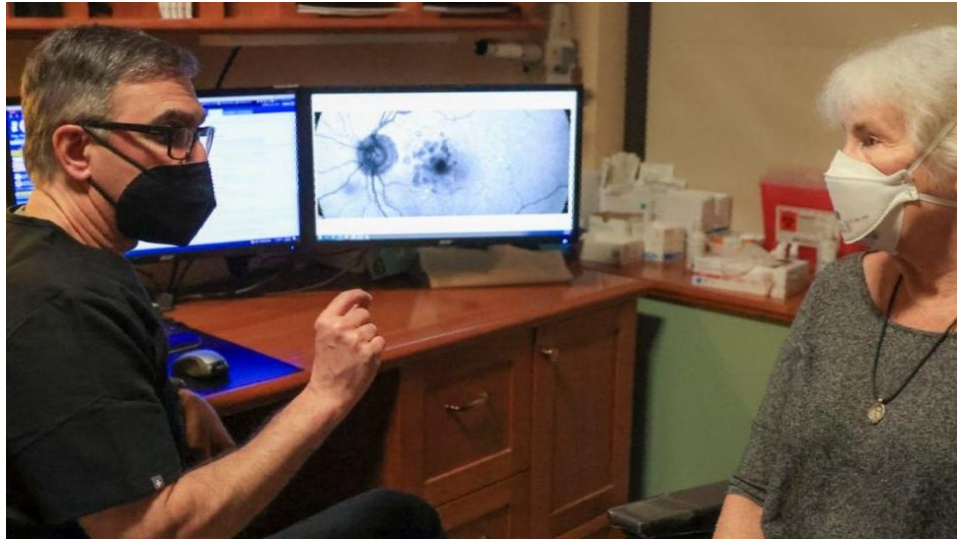
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OCB doctors in the news

Dr. Heier treats patient with new medication that

slows vision loss in an advanced form of macular degeneration



Dr. Jeffrey Heier was featured in the Boston Globe for treating the first patient in MA with Syfovre, the first available treatment for Geographic Atrophy, an advanced form of macular degeneration. Dr. Heier and his team at OCB led one of the clinical trials into Syfovre. [See Boston Globe article to learn more.](#)

OCB ophthalmologists named 2023 Top Doctors



Boston Magazine has named 17 OCB physicians to its 2023 “Top Doctor” list. The magazine draws its list from a Castle Connolly Medical Ltd top physician database. The Boston Magazine 2023 Top Doctor list includes Boston area physicians from various medical specialties.

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Dr. Fine to appear on WBZ radio broadcast

Dr. Laura Fine will be a guest of radio talk show host Dan Rea on his popular broadcast, [Nightside with Dan Rea](#) on 4/27 at 9 p.m.

Be sure to tune in as Dr. Fine will be discussing important eye health topics and

she will be taking caller questions.

You can listen live at WBZ NewsRadio 1030, or via the station's website [HERE](#)



Patient Safety

Covid safety modifications



As the world adapts to a new normalized version of living with COVID, so has the healthcare industry. To that point, OCB began lifting some, but not all, COVID restrictions that went into effect April 1, 2023. When you come to our offices you'll notice some changes have occurred. The plexi-glass at the front desks have been removed and waiting room areas have returned to what they looked like before COVID. You'll notice there are no longer

turned chairs. Tables, coat racks and water coolers are back in place.

It is important to note that masks are still required inside the clinic and waiting areas at all times. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, we request that you call us and let us assist you in rescheduling your appointment: fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, headache, muscle aches, loss of smell/taste, or shortness of breath. You will not be charged for rescheduling, even if it is within 24 hours of your appointment.

As always, thank you for your patience and understanding.

OCB establishes Patient Code of Conduct

Our top priority at OCB is the health and safety of our patients, and the health and safety of our staff. Unfortunately, verbal abuse and physical violence against health care workers is on the rise nationally and locally. Here at OCB, there have been increased incidents of hostility, inappropriate and threatening behavior towards staff members since

the pandemic. This behavior cannot and will not be tolerated. In response, OCB has developed a **Patient Code of Conduct** that we encourage all of our patients to review. You can view the OCB Patient Code of Conduct [HERE](#)



Artificial tears and eye ointment recall



Amid news reports several weeks ago concerning bacterial contamination of certain brands of eye drops, OCB has received phone calls from concerned patients who want to know if their brand is safe. At this time, Massachusetts is not among the states that have had cases of eye infections due to contaminated drops reported. Manufacturer Global Pharma, based in India, produces Delsam Pharma and EzriCare products and has initiated a voluntary recall. It has been reported in news outlets that the products in

question were purchased online before the recall. Several batches of another brand of drops, Purely Soothing, were also voluntarily recalled by manufacturer Pharmedica USA, due to concerns over contamination. However, no eye infections have been reported due to use of this brand of drops. Consumers with questions concerning the Purely Soothing 15% MSM recall can contact Pharmedica at osm@pharmedicausa.com or by calling (623) 698-1752. If you are using any of the following products, discontinue using them.

- EzriCare Artificial Tears
- Delsam Pharma Artificial Tears
- Delsam Pharma Eye Ointment
- Purely Soothing 15% MSM

All other brands of artificial tears and eye ointments are safe to use. Patients who have signs or symptoms of an eye infection should talk to their eye doctor or seek immediate medical care.

Schedule your visit through Patient Gateway!

Did you know you can request an appointment through your Mass General Brigham Patient Gateway account?

If you are already a patient with us, you can easily request an appointment through [Patient Gateway](#)! If you are a new patient, you could also request your first visit through the [website](#).

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