



# What's New in Ophthalmology Today?

## Glaucoma Medicines Reduce Risk of Death

**“Glaucoma patients who take medication for Glaucoma appear to have a reduced likelihood of death” according to a report in the *Archives of Ophthalmology* published in February 2010.**

Glaucoma is a condition of the eye where elevated intraocular pressure leads to loss of vision and occurs typically in older patients. This group is also at risk for other significant medical conditions such as heart disease and high blood pressure. Joshua Stein, MD and his colleagues from the University of Michigan, note: “Few Studies... have considered whether the medications commonly used to treat glaucoma may effect the association between glaucoma and death.”

A total of 1.1% of the patients died during the study. According to *Science Daily* **“when compared to those with no glaucoma medication use, those using any class of glaucoma medication had a 74% reduced risk of death”.**

What needs to be studied now is just why this happens – but this is certainly some very interesting and good news for patients with glaucoma.

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