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### **Intraoperative floppy iris syndrome associated with tamsulosin**

At the recent 2005 Hawaiian Eye meeting in Kona, Hawaii, Dr. David Chang presented the results of a study he performed with Dr. John Campbell that revealed the association between patients using the drug Flomax (tamsulosin) and intraoperative floppy iris syndrome (IFIS).

Flomax is an alpha-1A antagonist that relaxes the smooth muscle in the bladder neck and prostate, improving urinary flow in patients with prostate problems. Interestingly, Dr. Chang did not find that other nonselective alpha-1 antagonists (Hytrin or Cardura) caused IFIS. He described IFIS as intraoperative billowing of the iris, iris prolapse, and miosis.

Of importance was his experience of how to effectively deal with this situation. Although recognition is important to help plan the procedure, stopping the drug is not generally effective. He also found iris stretching or sphincterotomies to be ineffective. However, he suggested either using the prosthetic "Perfect Pupil" insertion ring to help dilate the pupil or using four iris hooks in a diamond configuration.

It is imperative to recognize the possibility of IFIS before starting a procedure because both of the previously described techniques are easier to accomplish prior to capsulorhexis. This beneficial discovery will allow cataract surgeons to treat patients more proficiently.