

# Florida Health Care News

Florida's largest health care information publication

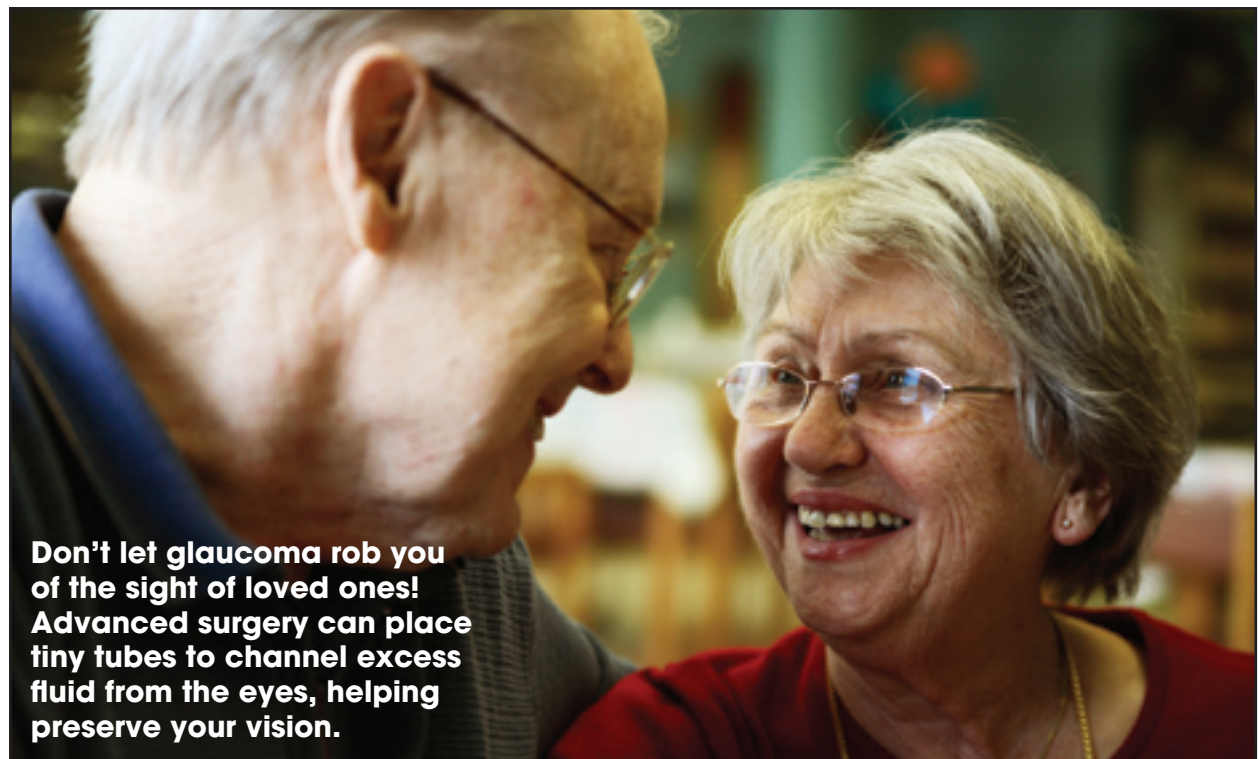


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## Focus on Glaucoma

**Tube implants are helping glaucoma patients lower and stabilize eye fluid pressure. This advanced technique is available locally.**



**Don't let glaucoma rob you of the sight of loved ones! Advanced surgery can place tiny tubes to channel excess fluid from the eyes, helping preserve your vision.**

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**W**. E. "Dave" Davis was pretty sure he knew what was wrong with his vision. "Glaucoma runs in my family," he says, "and last year I thought I recognized the signs."

When he scheduled an appointment with his eye doctor, board-certified ophthalmologist Claiborne H. Callahan, MD, at Manatee Sarasota Eye Clinic, Dave was startled to hear her diagnosis.

"Dr. Callahan told me I was right about the glaucoma," says Dave, "but on top of that, I was developing cataracts. Dr. Callahan prescribed medicated eye drops to lower my eye fluid pressure, but toward the end of 2006 she told me I really needed surgery for my glaucoma. She referred me to Dr. Khator."

FHCN PHOTO



Pooja Khator, MD, is a fellowship-trained glaucoma specialist at Manatee Sarasota Eye

**EXCELLENT RESULTS. Dave was particularly pleased with the results of his surgeries because his vision is markedly improved, allowing him to continue caring for TDee, a miniature poodle he adopted two years ago.**



Murray L. Friedberg, MD • Walter E. Moscoso, MD  
Robert E. Edelman, MD • Scott E. Silverman, MD  
Eric L. Berman, MD • Claiborne H. Callahan, MD  
Robert P. Sambursky, MD • Pooja Khator, MD

Clinic, and for Dave she suggested using an alternative surgical procedure to traditional trabeculectomy for relieving the elevated eye fluid pressure in his left eye, where his cataract was less advanced.

"The procedure was pioneered at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute in Miami, where I completed my fellowship training," says Dr. Khator. "During that fellowship, I was privileged to perform more than 150 of these procedures to implant tubes to assist in removing excess fluid from the eyes."

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**GENERAL SURGERY**

**Suspect you have a hernia?**

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**Intense attention for recovery**

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# Glaucoma

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## Why tube implants?

Dr. Khator explains that traditional surgical trabeculectomy is still a highly effective method of reducing eye fluid pressure when patients fail to respond to medicated eye drops or to selective laser trabeculectomy.

“In fact,” says Dr. Khator, “surgical trabeculectomy is designed to be performed in conjunction with cataract surgery, sparing patients a second surgical procedure when they have both cataracts and glaucoma. For patients who need both procedures, this is an excellent choice with a high profile for success.”

“Tube implantation is an entirely different type of procedure and is usually not performed in concert with cataract surgery,” Dr. Khator explains, “but it offers us a chance to reduce eye fluid pressure while also reducing the amount of aftercare required to ensure success.”

Surgical trabeculectomy creates a new pathway in the eye’s drainage system. Sutures are placed to help adjust the size of the opening. “Following surgery, the patient must return to the office two to three times a week for the first six weeks to allow us to measure fluid pressure and to either place or release sutures to adjust the rate of fluid drainage,” describes Dr. Khator. “Patients must also self-administer steroid drops every two hours for two to three months to keep the opening from healing over. That can pose a problem for patients who live alone or have other medical conditions that make such a schedule difficult to maintain.”

By contrast, tube implant surgery requires a postoperative appointment the day after surgery and at one, four, and six weeks following the procedure. Steroid eye drops to prevent tube closure are self-administered four times a day during those six weeks.

“The follow-up schedule is easier for patients to manage, as is the dosing schedule,” Dr. Khator points out.

In the past, tube implants were reserved for those patients whose eye fluid pressure was not controlled following traditional trabeculectomy. Now, this innovative procedure is being considered as an alternative to trabeculectomy because of its less onerous postoperative regimen and low rate of complications. Dr. Khator reports that the two procedures yield comparable results in terms of controlling eye fluid pressure and that studies are currently being conducted to compare long-term outcomes of these procedures.

“We see patients with glaucoma all the time at Manatee Sarasota Eye Clinic,” notes Dr. Khator, “and when they require surgery to control their eye fluid pressure, we now have two excellent options to offer them.”

## Dave’s success

Because the cataract in Dave’s left eye was not advanced enough to require surgery, Dr. Khator performed tube implant surgery on that eye in December and cataract surgery with traditional trabeculectomy on his right eye in March.

“Dr. Khator made me feel completely comfortable with her recommendations,” says Dave, “and when I went to the clinic for each of my surgeries, I was rather relaxed because I had such confidence in her.”

“Neither procedure was painful,” he continues, “although there was a little discomfort for an instant when she put the tube in place.”

“The amazing thing is that with each surgery Dr. Khator was able to reduce my eye fluid pressure to normal levels immediately.”

“I’m pretty pleased,” says Dave. “Before Dr. Khator performed these surgeries, I had a hard time seeing, but now my vision is totally improved in both eyes. It’s unbelievable.” **FHCN**—Billie S. Noakes



Dr. Friedberg



Dr. Moscoso



Dr. Edelman



Dr. Silverman



Dr. Berman



Dr. Callahan



Dr. Sambursky



Dr. Khator

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To learn more about your eyes, visit Manatee Sarasota Eye Clinic’s website at [www.YourEyeDoctors.com](http://www.YourEyeDoctors.com).

**YES!** I want to learn more! Please send me additional FREE information about:

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