



- Lawsuits allege popular GLP-1s cause vision loss
- Georgia's eye doctors share warning signs & advice

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Hundreds of Lawsuits Allege GLP-1s Caused Permanent Vision Loss *Georgia's Doctors of Optometry Share Warning Signs & Prevention Advice*

Atlanta, Ga. (October, 2026) – Hundreds of lawsuits have been filed against major GLP-1 makers by patients who accuse the popular weight-loss drugs of causing permanent eye damage and vision loss. Georgia's doctors of optometry are sharing the warning signs of what is sometimes called an "eye stroke" and important advice for those on the therapy.

According to reports, multiple lawsuits filed within the last year about GLP-1s focus on a condition called non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION), which causes rapid-onset vision changes and loss in one or both eyes that can result in blindness. NAION occurs when blood flow to the optic nerve is disrupted, resulting in sudden vision changes or vision loss, typically in one eye. While NAION is considered rare, it can cause permanent vision loss, and there is currently no proven treatment to restore vision once the damage occurs.

The lawsuits allege the damage occurred as a result of using semaglutide, tirzepatide and dulaglutide, including those sold under the brand names Ozempic, Wegovy, Zepbound, Mounjaro and Trulicity.

"GLP-1 medications are helping many Americans take control of their health, but there are vision risks and one in seven people using GLP-1 medications haven't had an eye exam in the last year," said Dr. Lauren Dyak, president of the Georgia Optometric Association. "Doctors of optometry recommend getting a comprehensive, dilated eye exam with an optometrist before or shortly after starting treatment, to set a vision baseline, as well as scheduling regular follow-up exams."

Know the Warning Signs

Patients taking GLP-1 medications should be aware of sudden changes in their vision, including:

- Sudden, painless vision loss
- Blurred, cloudy or dimmed vision
- Missing areas of vision
- Change in color vision

Sudden vision loss should be treated as an urgent medical concern. Patients experiencing these symptoms should seek immediate evaluation by an eye care professional or emergency medical care.

Establish a Baseline

A comprehensive, dilated eye examination can provide an important baseline for monitoring eye health. The American Optometric Association recommends a baseline eye exam within 12 months before beginning GLP-1 therapy or within one month of starting treatment.

Understand Your Individual Risk

This is particularly important for patients with diabetes, who may already be at increased risk for diabetic eye disease. Some patients with diabetic retinopathy may experience early worsening of the condition when blood glucose levels change rapidly. NAION is considered a rare but serious side effect, with highest risk among patients who are over 50.

If you take a GLP-1 medication, talk with your healthcare provider about your individual risks. Adding an optometrist to your care team is an important step if taking a GLP -1 therapy.

To find a doctor of optometry near you, visit goaeyes.com/find-an-optometrist.

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The Georgia Optometric Association is a statewide professional organization representing over 700 doctors of optometry located in communities throughout the state of Georgia. Founded in 1904, the GOA and its members work to provide the public with quality vision and eye care services. For more information visit www.GOAeyes.com, or follow www.facebook.com/GeorgiaOptometricAssociation, www.Twitter.com/GOA_eyes and www.Instagram.com/GOAeyes.

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