When do I need to talk with my doctor about pregnancy?

Talk with your eye doctor before you plan to become pregnant.

• If your pregnancy is unplanned, tell your eye doctor as soon as you find out you are pregnant.
• Glaucoma can run in families. Your doctor may be able to help you know your baby’s risk of glaucoma.
• Most patients do well during pregnancy. However, there are some glaucoma medications that are not recommended to be taken during parts of pregnancy.
• In some cases, your doctor might suggest that you have a laser treatment or surgery before trying to become pregnant, or during pregnancy. This may decrease the number of glaucoma medications you need during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Do I need to change my glaucoma drops during pregnancy?

There is not a lot of information about the safety of glaucoma medications during pregnancy. Many patients can continue their eyedrops, but please talk with your eye doctor and obstetrician about your specific case.

Do I need to change my glaucoma drops while breastfeeding?

You should not use brimonidine while breastfeeding. It can be dangerous for your baby and can make your baby stop breathing.

• If possible, use your glaucoma drops right after breastfeeding or pumping, not before.

Do I need to change anything about how I deliver my baby?

You can deliver your baby the way you and your obstetrician decide. From a glaucoma standpoint, vaginal birth and Caesarean section are both ok.

• Most doctors recommend not using brimonidine late in pregnancy near the time of delivery.