

Macular Degeneration

Facts about Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)



What is Macular Degeneration?

The retina is the layer of tissue at the back of the inner eye. The macula is the central portion of the retina that is important for reading, color vision, and detail. Macular degeneration is caused by damage to the area around blood vessels that supply the macula. This change in the blood vessels damages the macula.

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a chronic condition that causes central vision loss. It affects millions of Americans. In fact, it is a leading cause of blindness in people 60 and older. The older you are, the greater your chance of being affected. AMD is a single disease, but it can take 2 different forms: dry and wet.

Wet AMD is the more serious form. Without treatment, patients can lose their central vision over time, leaving only peripheral, or side, vision.

Symptoms of Macular Degeneration

AMD symptoms include blurriness, wavy lines, or a blind spot. You may also notice visual distortions such as:

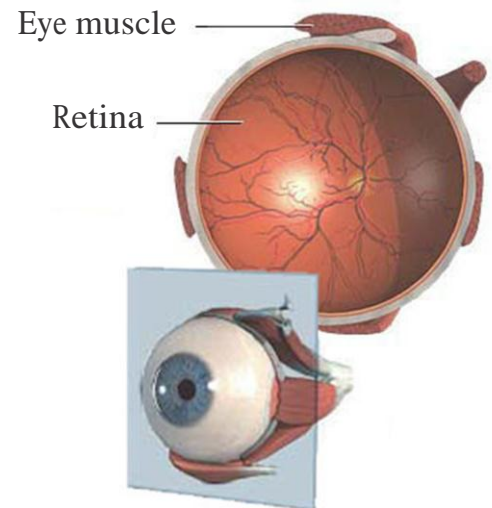
- Straight lines or faces appearing wavy
- Doorways seeming crooked
- Objects appearing smaller or farther away



Caring For Patients With Failing Sight

Caretakers need to help manage medications and eye drop administration. Low vision patients often require specialized ambulating and transporting. Additionally, the homes of AMD patients should be inspected for safety, and made "low vision" friendly.

Simple activities such as reading to the patient, accompanying on walks, assuring proper grooming, transportation and socialization can aid in maintaining dignity and quality of life for those affected.



Need more information?

Macular Degeneration Partnership
1-888-430-9898
www.amd.org

Macular Degeneration Support
1-816-761-7080
www.mdsupport.org

Macular Degeneration Foundation
1-888-633-3937
www.eyesight.org

Lighthouse International
(A nonprofit organization that has a low-vision store)
1-800-334-5497
www.lighthouse.org

Blinded Veterans Association
1-800-669-7079
www.bva.org

Prevent Blindness America
1-800-331-2020
www.preventblindness.org