

Age-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Fact Sheet

Macular degeneration results from damage to the macula, the part of the eye responsible for central vision and the ability to see fine details clearly. Most cases of macular degeneration occur as part of the aging process and are known as age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

About AMD

- AMD is a leading cause of vision loss in people over 60. AMD typically affects people initially in one eye, with a likelihood of it occurring in the second eye over time.
- While it usually does not lead to total blindness, AMD may cause foggy or blurred central vision which makes certain activities such as reading very difficult.

Types of AMD: Dry vs. Wet

- Dry AMD, the early form of AMD, accounts for 85 percent to 90 percent of all cases. Most cases of Dry AMD do not affect vision and when it does, it generally does this over many years. Dry AMD is currently treated with antioxidant vitamin therapy.
- Wet AMD causes most AMD-related blindness. This occurs when abnormal blood vessels leak blood or fluid into the macula and form scars that cause central vision to deteriorate. Wet AMD is most commonly treated with injections of medications.

Symptoms and Diagnosis of AMD

- Symptoms include blurred vision, blind spots in the middle of the field of vision, or distortion causing lines to appear wavy.
- If any of the above symptoms develop, it is important to follow up with an ophthalmologist as macular degeneration can now be treated.