

HOW AMD CAN AFFECT YOUR VISION

THE PROGRESSION OF MACULAR DEGENERATION

Age-related macular degeneration is a serious eye disease that causes the breakdown of the macula, which is located in the center of the retina and destroys the clear, "straight ahead" central vision necessary for reading, driving, identifying faces, watching television, doing fine detailed work, safely navigating stairs and performing other daily tasks we take for granted. It can make it more difficult to see contrast and can change the way color is seen.



Category 1: No AMD

A few or no drusen



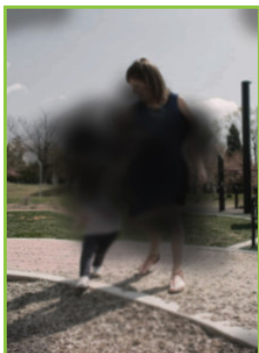
Category 2: Early Stage AMD

Several small drusen or a few medium-sized drusen in one or both eyes



Category 3: Intermediate AMD

Many medium-sized drusen or one or more large drusen in one or both eyes



Category 4: Advanced AMD

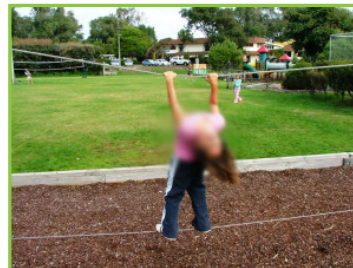
In one eye only, either a breakdown of light-sensitive cells and supporting tissue in the central retinal area (Advanced dry form), or abnormal and fragile blood vessels under the retina

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF MACULAR DEGENERATION



Normal Vision

No signs or symptoms



Early AMD

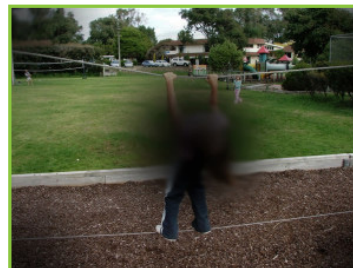
May be difficult to notice symptoms until condition worsens or both eyes are affected. The first sign is generally distortion of straight lines



Intermediate AMD

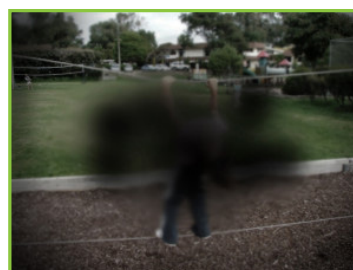
May cause some vision loss, but many will not notice the symptoms. Others may see distortion of straight lines. This may become a gradual loss of central vision, with a gray to black blind spot. Possible change in colors.

ADVANCED AMD



Geographic Atrophy

The end stage of dry macular degeneration. Over the course of years, the areas of atrophy stay small, but when the AMD affects the surrounding RPE, light receptors in the eye, the area enlarges and coalesces irregularly. This change results in significantly reduced vision.



Neovascular AMD

Final stages of wet macular degeneration, abnormal blood vessels grow under the retina and are weak, bleed and leak fluid, causing immediate central vision loss.