

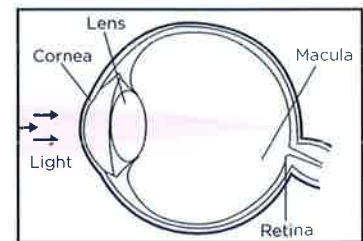


AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

WHAT IS AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)?

AMD is a disease that erodes central vision and is one of the leading causes of visual impairment and blindness for older Americans. Fortunately, new research methods are being developed which can make the management of this disease much more effective.

AMD is caused by changes in the macula, which is located in the retina and on the inside back layer of the eye. The macula is responsible for sharp central vision which is essential for tasks requiring straight-ahead focusing, such as driving and reading.



Eye Diagram

CAN AMD BE PREVENTED?



A regularly scheduled comprehensive eye exam provides the best preventative measure against AMD and its onset. Vision that has already been lost cannot be restored, although the earlier AMD is detected, the more successful treatment can be. In addition to regular eye exams, a healthy diet and exercise are also important.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF AMD?

Symptoms of AMD consist of blurry central vision where objects may become distorted. A dark or empty area in the center of one's visual field may appear as the disease progresses along with straight lines appearing wavy or crooked and gradual loss of clear color vision.

These symptoms may also indicate a condition other than AMD. If you experience any of them, contact your eye doctor as soon as possible so they can diagnose the cause of vision impairment.

Normal Vision



Vision with AMD



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If you have any questions or concerns regarding these symptoms please consult your optometrist immediately.

Sources: American Academy of Ophthalmology, National Eye Institute, AMD Alliance, American Optometric Association, AMD.org

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