

REGENERON

FACT SHEET ABOUT WET AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD)

WHAT IS WET AMD AND HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE IT?

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a complex multi-stage disease¹ and the most common cause of severe, irreversible vision loss in older adults in the United States and other developed countries.^{2,3}

An estimated nine million Americans have or are at risk for age-related macular degeneration,⁴ but most won't know they have it until they begin to suffer vision loss.⁵

AMD is diagnosed as either dry (non-neovascular) or wet (neovascular). More than 1.75 million Americans have wet AMD.⁴ Although the wet form accounts for approximately 10 to 15 percent of AMD cases,² it is responsible for about 80 to 90 percent of all AMD-related blindness.^{2,6} While wet AMD is the most advanced form of macular degeneration, it can develop at any time in people with dry AMD.⁵

There is no cure for wet AMD.² However, it can be managed with the goal of maintaining or improving vision in most patients while on treatment.⁷

WHO IS AT RISK FOR WET AMD?

Risk factors for AMD include being over the age of 50, white race, smoking and family history.^{2,5}

Healthy lifestyle choices such as eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, and avoiding or quitting smoking may alter the impact of AMD.⁵

HOW DOES WET AMD IMPACT VISION?

In wet AMD, damage to the macula – the central region of the retina responsible for high resolution vision – is at the core of the resulting vision loss. One of the contributing factors in wet AMD is vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which promotes the formation of new blood vessels. These abnormal blood vessels grow under the macula and leak blood and fluid. This leakage causes disruption and dysfunction of the retina.^{2,5,8} Straight lines may appear wavy and blind spots may appear in central vision, which can lead to vision impairment.²

Normal vision



With AMD



REGENERON

REFERENCES

1. Grisanti S, Tatar O. The role of vascular endothelial growth factor and other endogenous interplayers in age-related macular degeneration. *Progress in Retinal and Eye Research*. 2008;27:372-390.
2. Jager RD, Meiler WF, Miller JW. Age-related macular degeneration. *N Engl J Med*. 2008;358:2606-2617.
3. The Eye Diseases Prevalence Research Group. Causes and prevalence of visual impairment among adults in the United States. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2004;122:477-485.
4. The Eye Diseases Prevalence Research Group. Prevalence of age-related macular degeneration in the United States. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 2004; 122:564-572.
5. National Eye Institute. Age-related macular degeneration: what you should know. Available at: http://www.nei.nih.gov/health/maculardegen/nei_wysk_amd.PDF. Accessed February 24, 2014.
6. Ferris FL III, Fine SL, Hyman L. Age-related macular degeneration and blindness due to neovascular maculopathy. *Arch Ophthalmol*. 1984; 102:1640-2.
7. Heier JS, Brown DM, Chong V, et al. Intravitreal aflibercept (VEGF Trap-Eye) in wet age-related macular degeneration. *Ophthalmology*. 2012;119:2537-2548.
8. Kvanta A, Algvere PV, Berglin L, et al. Subfoveal fibrovascular membranes in age-related macular degeneration express vascular endothelial growth factors. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 1996;37:1929-1934.