

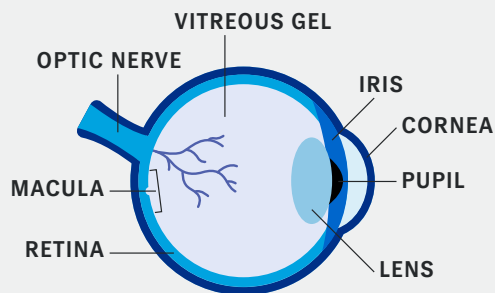
# WET AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION (AMD) FACT SHEET

## ABOUT WET AMD

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a condition that impacts the macula – the part of the eye that provides sharp, central vision. Wet, or neovascular, AMD is an advanced form of the condition that can cause rapid and severe vision loss.<sup>1</sup> Wet AMD involves the uncontrolled growth of new blood vessels in the back of the eye, resulting in leakage of fluid into the macula.<sup>2</sup>

### HOW WET AMD AFFECTS THE EYE<sup>6</sup>

Damage from wet AMD can lead to rapid and severe vision loss. As abnormal blood vessels form under the retina, the blood vessels leak blood or fluid in the macula, causing swelling or damage.



## DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT



*Getting an annual dilated eye exam is the best way to detect any changes in vision or in the eye.*

There are multiple treatment options for people diagnosed with wet AMD. Patients should talk to their eye doctor to learn more.

## IMPACT AND PREVALENCE OF WET AMD

Nearly 1.5 million people in the U.S. have late-stage AMD, which includes wet AMD.<sup>3</sup> An estimated 200,000 new cases of wet AMD are diagnosed each year in the U.S.<sup>4</sup>

Wet AMD may impact the ability to:

- See or recognize faces
- Read and write
- Drive
- Watch TV

For about 90% of people with wet AMD, their condition will advance to legal blindness.<sup>5</sup> When left untreated, it is a leading cause of blindness for people aged 60 and over in the United States.<sup>5</sup>

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS<sup>7</sup>

- Sudden blurred vision
- Blind spots that develop in the middle of the field of vision
- Difficulty distinguishing colors
- Distortion causing edges or lines to appear wavy
- Trouble seeing in dim light

## RISK FACTORS<sup>7</sup>

- Age
- Obesity
- Genetics
- Gender – women are at higher risk
- Race – wet AMD is more common among Caucasians
- Smoking

1. National Eye Institute. Age-Related Macular Degeneration. Available at: <https://www.nei.nih.gov/learn-about-eye-health/eye-conditions-and-diseases/age-related-macular-degeneration>. Accessed February 7, 2023. 2. American Academy of Ophthalmology. What is Macular Degeneration?. Available at: <https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/amd-macular-degeneration>. Accessed February 7, 2023. 3. JAMA Ophthalmology. Original Investigation: Prevalence of Age-Related Macular Degeneration in the US in 2019. Available at: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaophthalmology/article-abstract/2797921>. Accessed February 7, 2023. 4. Maguire MG. Comparing treatments for age-related macular degeneration: safety, effectiveness and cost. Issue Brief. 2012;17(8). Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics. Accessed February 7, 2023. 5. Idi.upenn.edu/sites/default/files/pdf/Issue%20Brief%2017\_8.pdf 6. BrightFocus Foundation. Age-Related Macular Degeneration: Facts & Figures. Available at: <https://www.brightfocus.org/macular/article/age-related-macular-facts-figures>. Accessed February 7, 2023. 7. Pennington KL, DeAngelis MM. Epidemiology of age-related macular degeneration (AMD): associations with cardiovascular disease phenotypes and lipid factors. Eye and Vision. 2016; 3:34.