



1335 Linden Blvd. | 2035 Ralph Ave. | 718-332-3030

MACULAR DEGENERATION

Age related macular degeneration (AMD) is a problem with the retina. The macular is the central part of the retina and is responsible for central vision. When this is damaged patients lose their central vision but can retain their full peripheral vision. AMD is a leading cause of vision loss in adults over 50. There are 2 main types of macular degeneration.

The most common type of AMD is dry macular degeneration. About 80% of AMD is dry and usually features tiny clumps of protein, called drusen, grow in the macular. The loss of vision can be very slow with this. There is no cure for dry AMD at this time but much research is underway to combat this.

Less common is wet AMD. This is much more serious and occur when new blood vessels grow under the macula. They can leak blood or fluid and cause scarring in the macular. Vision loss with wet AMD is quicker and more severe than with dry AMD.

Typical symptoms of AMD are sometimes similar to cataracts with hazy vision, difficulty seeing in low light or blurry spots in your vision. In addition, the size of objects may look different with the two eyes and straight lines may look curved or crooked.

Risk factors for AMD include being Caucasian, a family history, age over 50, eating a high fat diet and cigarette smoking. A dilated eye examination can tell a patient if they have AMD and if there are signs of wet AMD an appropriate referral to a retinal specialist can be quickly made.