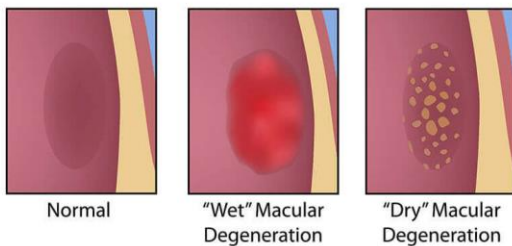
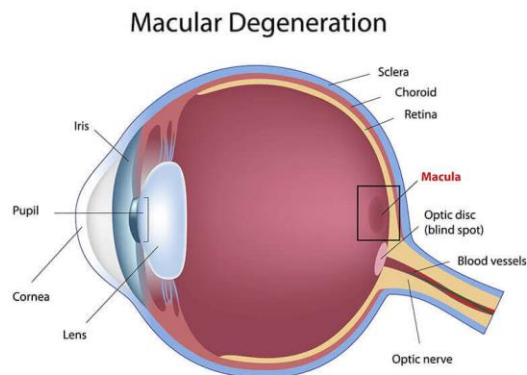


# MACULAR DEGENERATION



A group of chronic, degenerative eye diseases affecting the macula that results in the loss of central vision, leaving peripheral or side vision intact.

It is painless and does not result in total vision loss, however, it can result in disabling loss of vision. It affects your ability to read, drive and recognize faces.

- **Non-neovascular/Dry AMD:** Considered an early stage of deterioration due to thinning of the macular tissues, pigment deposits building up in the macula, or sometimes from a combination of both.

- **Neovascular/Wet AMD:** When the condition develops to this point, the body attempts to replenish the nutrients in the eye by creating a new network of blood vessels, a process called choroidal neovascularization or CNV. These vessels disrupt the delicate tissue of the retina where fine detailed vision is located.

- **Dry may progress to wet, but rarely does.** However, some patients do develop geographic atrophy, or GA, that damages retinal cells and causes sudden vision loss.

## Symptoms of AMD include:

- Distorted Vision
- Blurred Vision
- Decreased color brightness
- Difficulty recognizing faces

## Causes:

- Abnormal blood vessels that leak
- Family history of AMD
- Previous cataract or other eye surgery
- Cardiovascular risk factors such as atherosclerosis, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure
- History of smoking

## Treatment:

- Vitamin supplements taken daily
- For severe cases, injections may be required to inhibit new blood vessels from growing