

The junction of structure and function: where glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration meet

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## Financial Disclosures

Leo Semes, OD, FAAO

- Consultant - Apellis
- Speaker Bureau, Consultant - Regeneron, OptoMed
- Scientific Advisory Board (Consultant) - EyePromise
- Stock options - EyePromise (< 0.01% ownership)

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## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the attendee should

1. Appreciate the convergence of the chronic progressive diseases, glaucoma and AMD
2. Understand primary eyecare providers' role in management of patients with these ocular diseases
3. Realize the potential to preserve vision in patients with glaucoma and AMD.

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## Glaucoma

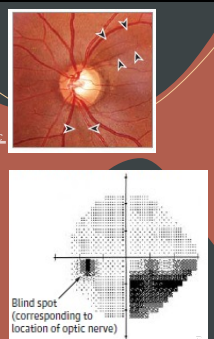
A multi-factorial chronic eye disease

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### Primary open-angle glaucoma (POAG) definition\*

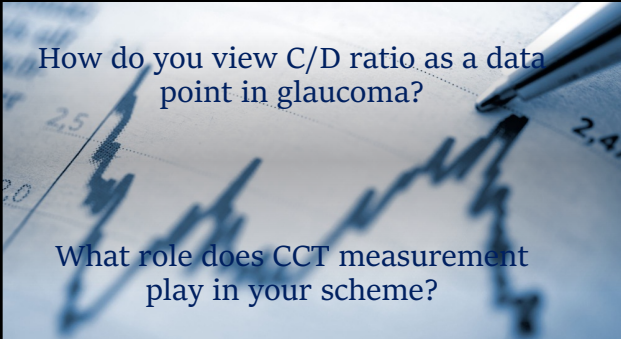
- The open-angle glaucomas are chronic, progressive optic neuropathies that have *characteristic pathologic changes of the optic nerve and retinal nerve fiber layer (RNFL)* without supervening ocular diseases or congenital anomalies.
- Progressive retinal ganglion-cell death and visual-field depressions are associated with these changes.
- The primary clinically measurable risk factor is elevated intraocular pressure (IOP).

\*adapted from AAO PPP



Blind spot (corresponding to location of optic nerve)

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How do you view C/D ratio as a data point in glaucoma?

What role does CCT measurement play in your scheme?

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### Structure/Function in Glaucoma

Should we place more emphasis on structure or function?

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### Going forward . . .

What influence will OCTA have on glaucoma diagnosis/management?

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A definition: An eye disease with its onset usually after age 60 that can progressively destroy the macula, the central portion of the retina, impairing central vision.

**AMD**  
Age-related macular degeneration  
Also a multi-factorial chronic eye disease

[https://www.medicinenet.com/age-related\\_macular\\_degeneration/definition.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/age-related_macular_degeneration/definition.htm)  
(accessed November 15, 2021)

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### AMD is the Leading Cause of Legal Blindness in the US

Clinical AMD is more prevalent than glaucoma & diabetic retinopathy combined

(Statistics from the AAOphth)

Prevalence of Major Eye Diseases (US): Age 50 and Older

Source: <https://www.aao.org/newsroom/eye-health-statistics-edited>, <https://www.nei.nih.gov/eye/more/about-eye-health/resources-for-health-educators/eye-health-data-and-statistics/diabetic-retinopathy-data-and-statistics/diabetic-retinopathy-facts>, <https://www.mn.mh.gov/more/about-eye-health/resources-for-health-educators/eye-health-data-and-statistics/diabetic-retinopathy-data-and-statistics/diabetic-retinopathy-facts>  
Accessed October 14, 2021

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### Projections for Age-Related Macular Degeneration in 2030 and 2050 (in millions)

Projections for AMD in 2030 and 2050 (millions)

<https://nei.nih.gov/eyedata/amd>  
Accessed October 14, 2021

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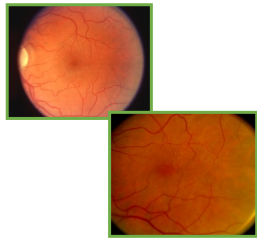
### AMD classification from the AREDSs

• Ferris F et al. Ophthalmology 2013;120:844-851

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### Simplified AREDS Staging (specification)

- Category 1**
  - No or few drusen (<63 microns\*), no pigment abnormalities, neither eye Wet
  - 0% risk of Wet at 5 yrs
- Category 2**
  - Intermediate drusen (<125 microns\*), mild pigment abnormalities, neither eye wet
  - <2% risk of Wet at 5 yrs



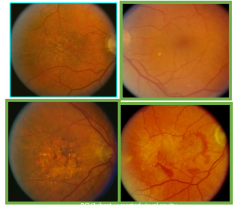
\*Note: Central retinal vein is approximately 125 microns

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### Simplified AREDS Staging (specification)

Note that to be enrolled in AREDS, patients had to have at least moderate AMD and be > 50.

- Category 3/Intermediate**
  - Combo of extensive intermediate or any large druse, or GA
  - 18% risk of Wet in 5 yrs
- Category 4/Advanced/High Risk**
  - One eye with Wet or BCVA worse than 20/32 from Dry



15  
http://www.nei.nih.gov/amd/background.asp

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### Trajectory prediction

Ferris F, et al. Ophthalmology 2013;120:844-851.

**Validated for 10-year risk:**  
Liew G, Joachim N, Mitchell P, Burlutsky G, Wang JJ. Validating the AREDS Simplified Severity Scale of Age-Related Macular Degeneration with 5- and 10-Year Incident Data in a Population-Based Sample. Ophthalmology. 2016 Sep;123(9):1874-8.

Patient Severity Score	5-Year Risk of Developing Late AMD
0	0.5%
1	3%
2	12%
3	25%
4	50%

Figure 3. Graph showing age-related eye disease clinical scale for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), demonstrating the 5-year risk of developing advanced AMD for various risk groups. AREDS = Age-Related Eye Disease Study.

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### Underdiagnosis of early AMD

AMA Ophthalmology | Original Contribution  
Prevalence of Undiagnosed Age-Related Macular Degeneration in Primary Eye Care

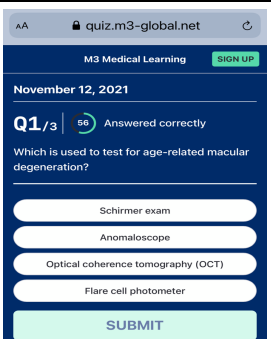
RESULTS The sample consisted of 1288 eyes from 644 participants (231 [35.9%] male and 413 [64.1%] female; mean [SD] age, 69.4 [6.1] years; 611 white [94.9%]) seen by 31 primary eye care ophthalmologists or optometrists. A total of 968 eyes (75.2%) had no AMD, in agreement with their medical record. 320 (24.8%) had AMD despite no diagnosis of AMD in the medical record. Among eyes with undiagnosed AMD, 32 (10.0%) had hyperpigmentation, 43 (13.4%) had hypopigmentation, 249 (77.8%) had small drusen, 250 (78.1%) had intermediate drusen, and 96 (30.0%) had large drusen. Undiagnosed AMD was associated with older patient age (odds ratio [OR], 1.06; 95% CI, 1.04-1.09; P < .001), male sex (age-adjusted OR, 1.39; 95% CI, 1.02-1.91; P = .04), and less than a high school education (age-adjusted OR, 2.40; 95% CI, 1.03-5.62; P = .04). Prevalence of undiagnosed AMD was not different for ophthalmologists and optometrists (age-adjusted OR, 0.99; 95% CI, 0.71-1.36; P = .94).

AMA Ophthalmol. 2017;25(5):570-575. doi:10.1001/jamaophthalmol.2017.0830  
Published online April 22, 2017.

**Should we rely on stereoscopic observation and CFP or is sophisticated imaging needed?**

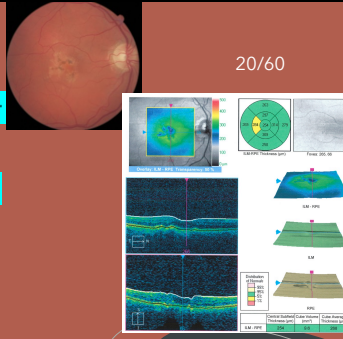
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M3-global quiz



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### When do you order OCT among patients with AMD?



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For AMD, do you place more emphasis on functional or structure measurements?

What is the value of dark-adaptation measurement?

Test Eye: Left  
 Test Date: 02-09-2017 14:45  
 Age at Test: 68  
 Protocol: Rapid Test  
 Pupil Size: 6.50 mm  
 Spherical Correction: --  
 Cylindrical Correction: --

Sensitivity (log units)

Minutes

Rod Intercept is 4.21 minutes.  
 Fixation Error Rate is 0%.

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Are macular pigment density measurements valuable?

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Given the multiple burdens of AMD, do you foresee it as an area ripe for screening in non-ophthalmic settings?

Diabetic retinopathy exams, available at MinuteClinic

And our eye screenings now use our new eye technology for Type 2 diabetes.

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HHS Public Access

Author manuscript  
 Ann Eye Sci. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2021 October 19.

Published in final edited form as:  
 Ann Eye Sci. 2021 June ; 6 : doi:10.21037/aes-20-114.

Combined automated screening for age-related macular degeneration and diabetic retinopathy in primary care settings

Alauddin Bhuiyan<sup>1,2</sup>, Arun Govindaiah<sup>1</sup>, Sharmina Alauddin<sup>2</sup>, Oscar Otero-Marquez<sup>2</sup>, R. Theodore Smith<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research & Development Department, iHealthScreen Inc., Richmond Hill, USA  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Ophthalmology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA

**Abstract**

**Background:** Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy (DR) are among the leading causes of blindness in the United States and other developed countries. Early detection is the key to prevention and effective treatment. We have built an artificial intelligence-based screening system which utilizes a cloud-based platform for combined large scale screening through primary care settings for early diagnosis of these diseases.

For AMD  
 Sensitivity: 86.6%  
 Specificity: 92.1%  
 Accuracy: 90.7%  
 kappa score: 0.76

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EARLY DIAGNOSIS – SO WHAT?

Preventive care & careful monitoring & are the keys to vision preservation

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Aren't the anti-VEGF agents the saving grace for nAMD?

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Visual Acuity Outcomes and Anti-Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Therapy Intensity in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration Patients

A Real-World Analysis of 49 485 Eyes

**Conclusions:** Real-world nAMD patients receive fewer anti-VEGF injections and experience worse visual outcomes compared with patients receiving fixed, frequent therapy in randomized controlled trials. Mean change in VA correlates with treatment intensity at 1 year, but with ceiling effects related to treatment intensity and baseline VA. Older patients and those with poor baseline VA may be particularly prone to undertreatment. *Ophthalmology Retina* 2020;4:19-30 © 2019 by the American Academy of Ophthalmology. This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC-ND license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/>).

Mmmmm No... But that was 2020

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Published March 21, 2021

JAMA Ophthalmology | Original Investigation

Intravitreal Aflibercept Injection vs Sham as Prophylaxis Against Conversion to Exudative Age-Related Macular Degeneration in High-Risk Eyes: A Randomized Clinical Trial

Do the anti-VEGF agents protect against nAMD?

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** In this evaluation of quarterly anti-VEGF exposure as prophylaxis to reduce conversion of eyes with high-risk dry AMD to eAMD, the rates of conversion were not lower in the IAi group compared with the sham treatment group at month 24. Understanding the mechanism of conversion to eAMD and therapies that could prevent this event remains an important unmet need.

Well, no.

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Five-Year Reactivation After Ranibizumab or Aflibercept Treatment for Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy

Bottom line: 4/5 of eyes experienced reactivation

November 11, 2021

Abstract

**Purpose:** To evaluate 5-year reactivation after ranibizumab or aflibercept treatment for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV).

**Methods:** This retrospective study included 192 patients (192 eyes) who had been diagnosed with neovascular AMD or PCV and treated with ranibizumab or aflibercept. The incidence and timing of lesion reactivation during the 5-year follow-up period were evaluated, and the factors associated with reactivation were also investigated.

**Results:** During the follow-up period, lesion reactivation was noted in 156 patients (81.3%) at a mean of 9.5 ± 10.5 months after the third intravitreal anti-vascular endothelial growth factor injection. The incidence of reactivation was 59.9% during the first 12 months, 33.7% during 12 and <24 months, 11.8% during >24 and ≤36 months, 15.5% during >36 and ≤48 months, and 5.3% during >48 and 500 months. There was a significant difference in the incidence among the 5 periods ( $P < 0.001$ ). The proportion of PCV was significantly higher in patients experiencing reactivation (51.9%) than in those who did not (30.6%) ( $P = 0.021$ ).

**Conclusions:** During the 5-year follow-up, lesion reactivation was noted in approximately four-fifths of the patients. The incidence of lesion reactivation was highest during the first 12 months and decreased thereafter. The incidence was higher in patients with PCV than in those with neovascular AMD, especially after 12 months.

• Kim JH, Kim JW, Kim CG. Five-Year Reactivation After Ranibizumab or Aflibercept Treatment for Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration and Polypoidal Choroidal Vasculopathy. J Ocul Pharmacol Ther. 2021 Nov;37(9):525-533. doi: 10.1089/jop.2021.0051. Epub 2021 Sep 14.

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Some Practical dry AMD management recommendations

Once detected, early interventions can slow disease progression

Five proven approaches to modifiable risk factors (preventive care)

Smoking Cessation	Diet & Exercise	Nutritional Supplementation	Systemic Disease Management	Retinal Light Protection

Leading optometrists agree: Practical treatments should be used for ALL STAGES OF AMD to slow progression and improve outcomes.

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How do you view Amsler grid for self-monitoring in patients with AMD?

20/60

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Ophthalmology Science 2021;11:100034

**Prospective, Longitudinal Pilot Study**

Daily Self-Imaging with Patient-Operated Home OCT in Neovascular Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Careful monitoring

Tarman D.L., Kerman, BM BCh, PhD<sup>1</sup>, Mickaella Goldstein, MD,<sup>2,3</sup> Dafna Goldenberg, MD,<sup>2,3,4</sup> David Ziv, MD,<sup>1</sup> Shai Shalita, MD,<sup>2</sup> Assaf Lotem, MD,<sup>2,3</sup>

Results (n = 211/240 scans; good adherence/4 pts., 1 mo.)

- Notal OCT analyzer (NOA) vs. human graders (retina specialists) : Fluid presence 94.7% agreement.
- "Daily self-imaging with automated OCT analysis permitted detailed characterization of the dynamics of fluid exudation and revealed wide variation among eyes."

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Thank you

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