

Understanding the Difference Between Wet and Dry Macular Degeneration

Age related macular degeneration comes in two forms, and knowing which one you are dealing with changes what happens next. Dry AMD is the more common type, developing slowly as tiny deposits called drusen build up under the retina and gradually thin the macula. Wet AMD is less common but more urgent, caused by abnormal blood vessels growing beneath the retina and leaking fluid or blood. The distinction matters because the two forms are managed very differently. Dry AMD is typically monitored through regular check ups, with lifestyle changes and targeted supplementation sometimes recommended to slow progression. Wet AMD usually needs faster intervention, often with injection based treatments aimed at stopping the abnormal vessels from <https://www.retina-eye.co.uk/> causing further damage. Neither form causes total blindness, since AMD affects central vision rather than peripheral vision, but the impact on daily tasks like reading, recognising faces and driving can be considerable. A dilated eye exam is the most reliable way to tell which type is present, along with imaging such as optical <https://www.medigy.com/news/blogs/specialized-eye-care-services-addressing-unique-vision-needs/> coherence tomography. Anyone noticing distorted or blurred central vision should book an assessment promptly. Catching either form early gives specialists more options and, in the case of wet AMD in particular, more time to protect the vision that remains.