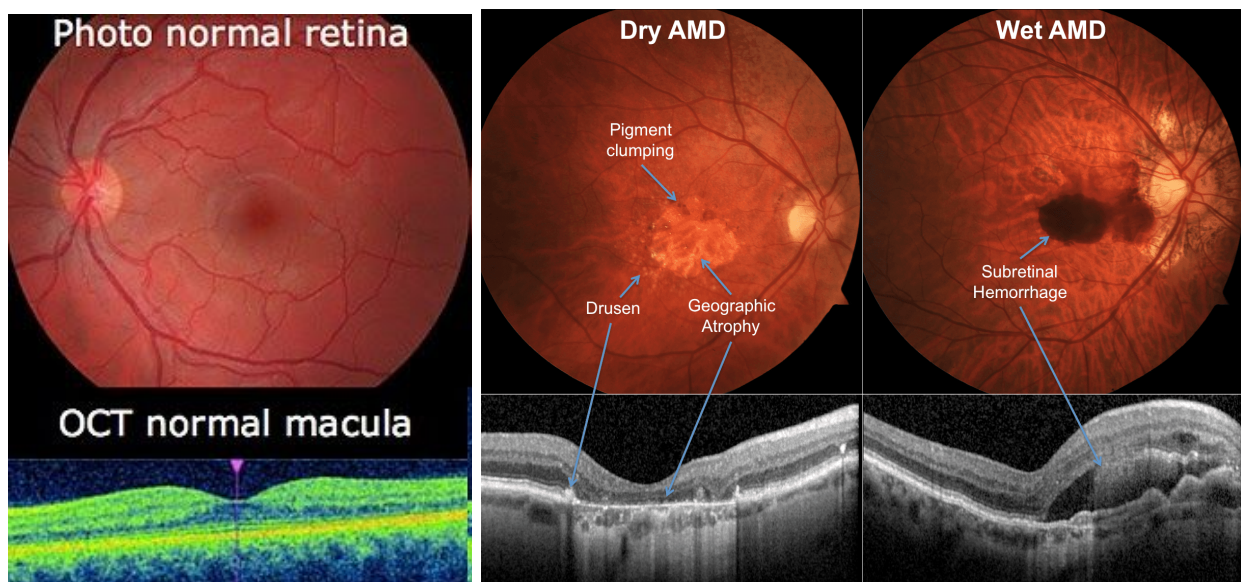


Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Macular degeneration (AMD) is a common eye disease that causes vision loss and it usually affects people over 50 years of age. The part of the eye that controls the central vision which is the Macula, breaks down. Exact causes of AMD are not specifically known. Certain factors a person develops may increase the likelihood of AMD such as smoking, farsightedness, high blood pressure, obesity, and family history of AMD. There are two types of macular degeneration, which are dry AMD and wet AMD. Dry AMD is the most common form and should be monitored with your eyecare professional before it turns into a more serious wet form. The macula can wear out with age and a person might not notice at first, but gradually you will have vision loss. Wet AMD is a less common form, but it is more serious than dry AMD. It occurs when weak tiny blood vessels grow into the macula and leak, causing the macula to bulge and damage the retina and loss of vision can occur rapidly.



Either one or both eyes can be affected with AMD. Loss of sharp and clear central vision is often first noticed in a person. Other symptoms can be blurred images, faded and changes in colors, distorted lines and edges, and dark spots in the center of images. A person's vision that is lost cannot be restored, but there are various treatments that may preserve the vision of what is left. Some of the treatment options include taking vitamins and minerals that may help slow the progression of AMD, laser treatment which helps seal leaking blood vessels with a light beam that is directed through the pupil to the retina, special injected medication that is injected into the eye to stop new blood vessels from forming and block leakage from the abnormal vessels that cause wet macular degeneration.