



## Anti-VEGF Treatment for Wet AMD

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If you have a certain form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD), your ophthalmologist may treat it with a medicine called **anti-VEGF**.

### What is AMD?

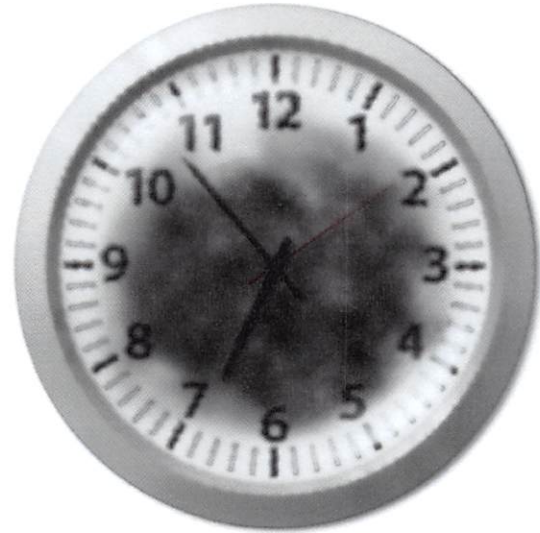
AMD is a problem with your retina. It happens when a part of the retina called the macula is damaged. With AMD you lose your central vision. You cannot see fine details, whether you are looking at something close or far. But your peripheral (side) vision will still be normal. For instance, imagine you are looking at a clock with hands. With AMD, you might see the clock's numbers but not the hands.

AMD is very common. It is a leading cause of vision loss in people 50 years or older.

There are two types of AMD:

**Dry AMD:** This form is quite common. About 80% (8 out of 10) people who have AMD have the dry form. Dry AMD is when parts of the macula get thinner with age and drusen grow. You slowly lose central vision. There is no way to treat dry AMD yet.

**Wet AMD:** This form is less common but much more serious. Wet AMD is when new, abnormal blood vessels grow under the retina. These vessels may leak blood or other fluids, causing scarring of the macula. You lose vision faster with wet AMD than with dry AMD.



With AMD, dark areas may appear in your central vision.

### Eye Words to Know

**Retina:** Layer of nerve cells lining the back wall inside the eye. This layer senses light and sends signals to the brain so you can see.

**Macula:** Small but important area in the center of the retina. You need the macula to clearly see details of objects in front of you.

**Drusen:** Tiny white or yellow particles that form under the retina. They seldom cause vision loss. But many (or very large) drusen can be a sign of AMD.

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## Anti-VEGF treatment for Wet AMD

Your ophthalmologist may treat your wet AMD with a drug inside the eye called **anti-VEGF**. This medicine slows or stops damage from abnormal blood vessels. Anti-VEGF treatment can slow down vision loss. Sometimes it can even improve vision.

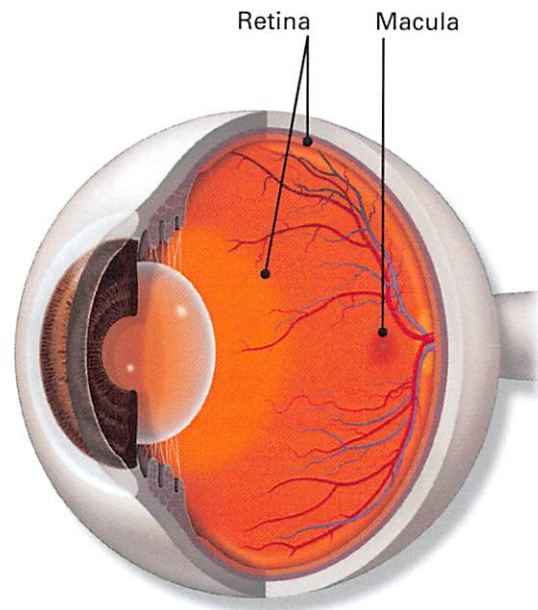
Anti-VEGF treatment improves vision in about half of (1 out of 2) people who take it. For a vast majority (9 out of 10), it at least stabilizes vision.

Here is how anti-VEGF treatment is given:

- The eye is numbed to reduce pain. A small device may be placed on your eye to keep your eyelids out of the way.
- Using a very thin needle, your ophthalmologist injects the drug in the back of your eye. The injection only takes a few seconds.

Your ophthalmologist will decide how many treatments you need. You may need other types of treatment along with anti-VEGF treatment.

The benefit of anti-VEGF treatment is that it slows vision loss—and possibly improves vision. But just like any other drug or surgery, there are risks with anti-VEGF treatment. There is a small risk (about 1 in 1000) of getting an eye infection, possibly even causing permanent vision loss, from this treatment. There is also a risk of damage to parts of the eye from the injection. Your ophthalmologist can help you understand risks and benefits of anti-VEGF treatment.



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## Summary

Anti-VEGF is a treatment for people with wet AMD. This medicine is injected into the eye to slow vision loss and possibly improve vision.

Watch an AMD video from the American Academy of Ophthalmology's EyeSmart program at [aao.org/wet-amd-link](http://aao.org/wet-amd-link).

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