

Understanding **GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY** and its Management

WHAT IS GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY?

Geographic atrophy (GA) is an advanced form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which can lead to vision loss over time.

Risk factors for GA include **age**, with most cases of GA being diagnosed in people age 60 or older; a **history** of AMD in a family member; and **smoking**.

MANAGEMENT OF GA

Current treatments are designed to **slow the progression** of GA. They do not restore vision that has already been lost or cure GA.

- If you have been diagnosed with earlier stages of AMD, AREDS2 or AREDS3 supplements may help **reduce the risk of progression** to advanced AMD.
- Not all patients benefit from these supplements.
- Ask your eye doctor whether these supplements are appropriate for you.

Two US Food and Drug Administration-approved therapies for the treatment of GA target the **complement system**. Normally, the complement system is a group of proteins that work together to help your body fight infections and clear out damaged cells. An overactive complement system has been shown to play a primary role in the development and progression of GA, and these treatments try to slow it down. The available treatments are **not a “one-and-done” solution**, and they will need to be administered either monthly or every other month to slow disease progression.

SYMPTOMS OF GA

Geographic atrophy can develop slowly, so **regular eye exams are essential**, especially if you have risk factors. Symptoms that can occur include:

- **Difficulty seeing in low light**
- **Slow loss of central vision**
- **Blurry, distorted or unclear vision**
- **Trouble recognizing faces**
- **Colors appearing less vibrant**

If you notice new or worsening visual symptoms, contact your eye care professional promptly.



At Risk



Early



Intermediate



Advanced

The following 2 treatments have been shown to reduce the growth of GA lesions:

- **Pegcetacoplan:** Inhibits the complement protein C3. It is given by intravitreal injection monthly or every other month.
- **Avacincaptad pegol:** Inhibits the complement protein C5. It is given by intravitreal injection every month.

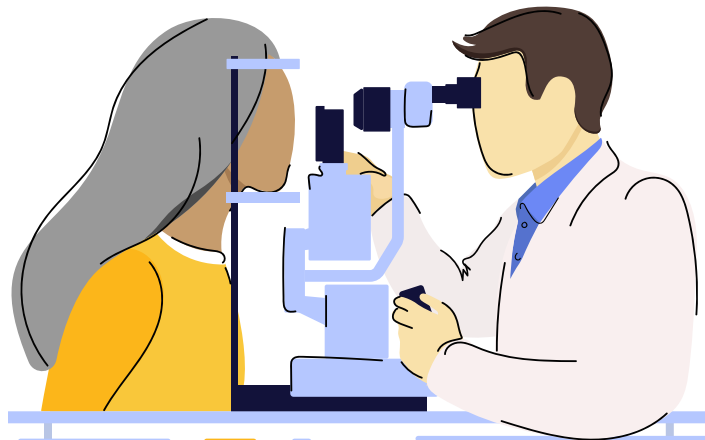
As with all therapies, there are potential side effects associated with these treatments. You should speak to your doctor about these side effects when discussing what treatment is right for you.

Knowledge about GA empowers you to participate in decisions about your care.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR EYE DOCTOR

- Am I a candidate for treatment?
- How quickly is my GA progressing?
- What benefits can I realistically expect?
- How often will I need injections or follow-up visits?
- What symptoms should prompt me to call the office?



FOLLOW-UP VISITS ARE IMPORTANT

- Skipping appointments can put your vision at risk.
- Treatment will require a regular schedule to slow disease progression.
- You should let your doctor know of any concerns, such as transportation difficulties or fear of injections.

EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

Your doctor and healthcare team should provide you with information about GA and available therapies. You can also talk with your doctor about educational resources and support groups. If you would like further information about GA, please visit the websites listed or scan the below QR codes.



American Macular Degeneration Foundation:

<https://www.macular.org/about-macular-degeneration/geographic-atrophy>



American Academy of Ophthalmology:

<https://www.aao.org/eye-health/geographic-atrophy>



Prevent Blindness:

<https://preventblindness.org/geographic-atrophy/>

Educational Resource for the GA Patient

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