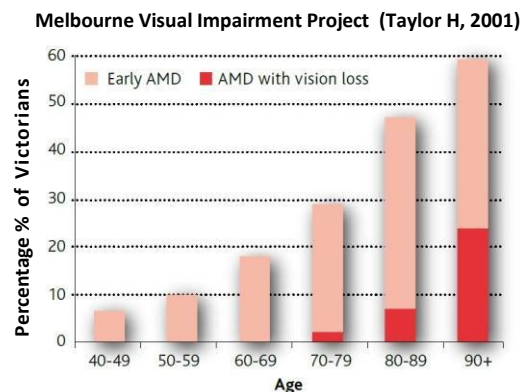
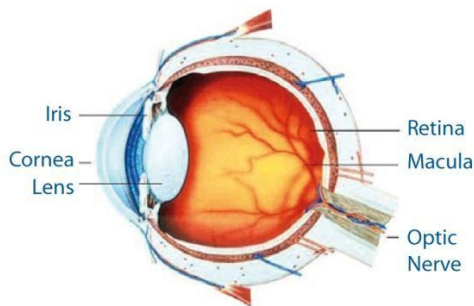


# Age-related Macular Degeneration

**Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) is a degenerative disease that affects the central area of the retina called the macula, causing it to thin and in some cases bleed. The condition commonly affects both eyes, though not always to the same extent and can result in vision loss.**

There are two forms of AMD:

- > 'Dry' AMD develops slowly and results in gradual vision impairment. It is the most common form of advanced AMD.
- > 'Wet' AMD develops more rapidly and occurs when abnormal blood vessels develop beneath the retina and bleed.



## How common is AMD?

Age-related macular degeneration increases in prevalence after the age of 50 years. One in 7 people over 50 has the early signs of AMD. Two out of three people over 90 will develop AMD, and one in four in that age group experience significant loss of vision from the disease.

## What are the symptoms?

- > Blurred or distorted vision
- > Difficulty in adjusting to different lighting conditions
- > Reduced central vision

## What are the causes?

The causes of age-related macular degeneration are currently not fully understood. Evidence suggests the condition has a genetic link. People with a family history of AMD have a 4-fold increased risk of developing AMD. Other risk factors associated with AMD include age and smoking.

## AMD research

The Macular Research Unit at the Centre for Eye Research Australia (CERA) is working with the ASPREE (**ASP**irin in **R**educing **E**vents in the **E**lderly) study to investigate if daily low dose aspirin can prevent or improve the prognosis of AMD in healthy people aged 70 and over. Professor Robyn Guymer, a recognised world leader in research and clinical management of AMD, is a lead investigator in the ASPREE-AMD study. For more information contact ASPREE on 1800 728 745.