

MY EYE DOCTOR SAYS I HAVE GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY (GA)

I have so many questions. Why did this happen? How will it affect my life?

What is GA?

GA is the late-stage form of dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD). It happens when damaged cells shrivel up and die leaving permanent blind spots in the eye. This typically starts just outside the center of vision but eventually enlarges and affects central vision.

What are the risk factors for GA¹?

- Increased age
- Family history of GA or AMD
- Genetic mutations
- Smoking
- High cholesterol

Are there any treatments?

Yes, there are two FDA-approved treatments: Syfovre and Izervay. These treatments slow the growth of GA. They do not reverse vision loss.

How will my life be affected?

Ask your eye doctor about low vision aids and techniques that may help minimize the impact of GA on your quality of life. Here are some of the ways GA can affect your everyday life:

- You may find driving challenging, especially at night²
- You may need to switch to audiobooks, digital books, or large-print books so you don't lose reading as a hobby
- You may need to use a magnifier, contrast-enhancing devices, and task lighting



DID YOU KNOW?

Individuals older than 85 years have a 10-fold higher prevalence of late-stage AMD than those aged 70 to 74.³

Do these treatments have side effects?

The most common side effects are^{4,5}:

- Eye discomfort
- Wet AMD
- Small specks floating in vision
- Blood in the white of the eye
- Increase in eye pressure
- Blurred vision

How often do I have to be treated?

Your eye doctor will refer you to a retina specialist who will discuss a specific plan for you. It's important to follow the treatment plan to slow GA progression. The treatments will not reverse vision loss.



How will I know if my treatment is working?

Ask your eye doctor about home-monitoring devices or techniques that can help you be aware of any new or worsening symptoms. But even if you do not notice any symptoms, it's important to continue the treatment plan outlined by your retina specialist to slow GA progression.

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2. Patel PJ, et al. Burden of illness in geographic atrophy: a study of vision-related quality of life and health care resource use. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2020;14:15-28.
3. Jonasson F, et al. Prevalence of age-related macular degeneration in old persons: age, gene/environment susceptibility Reykjavik study. *Ophthalmology*. 2011;118(5):825-830.
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