



## Diagnosing Age-Related Macular Degeneration

If you notice any change in your vision, you should see your eye doctor immediately. If you are over the age of 50, if you have a family history of AMD, or if you smoke, you should have routine yearly eye exams to detect AMD. Be sure to visit a medical eye doctor for examination. An eye exam only for glasses or contacts can't detect the early stages of AMD. Detection of the early signs of AMD is essential to help preserve as much of your vision as possible.

## Test Your Vision Daily

In addition to eye exams, it is important to self-monitor for signs of age-related macular degeneration. Early vision changes often affect only one eye and occur gradually over time. One simple test you can do at home is to look at an "Amsler grid".

- Place the grid at eye level with good lighting and stand about 12 inches away
- While wearing your reading glasses, cover one eye and look at the center dot of the grid with the uncovered eye for about one minute
- Notice if the lines are straight and complete
- First do one eye, and then the other

If any part of the grid looks wavy, blurry, or dark or if you have any other symptoms of early vision loss call your eye doctor right away. An Amsler grid cannot replace a regular eye exam. Only your eye doctor can determine if you have dry or wet AMD or another eye disease.

[Click here](#) to see a demonstration of the Amsler grid and the importance of screening at home for AMD.

[Learn more Living with AMD](#)

To listen to the full prescribing information regarding MACUGEN, please click on the link entitled "Important Safety Information" on the menu bar located on the left of the screen.

MACUGEN is approved to treat wet age-related macular degeneration. It is available by prescription only.

Not all people respond the same to MACUGEN, so individual results may vary. The safety or efficacy of MACUGEN has not been proven beyond 2 years.

## Important safety information

With MACUGEN, you may have some side effects, mostly in the eye and due to the injection procedure. The most common side effects are burning sensation, eye pain, redness, light sensitivity, vision loss, blurred vision, visual disturbances, high blood pressure, and cataract. For a complete list of side effects, please ask your doctor or see the prescribing information.



You should not receive MACUGEN if you have an infection in or around your eye or if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to pegaptanib sodium or any of the other ingredients.

A serious eye infection can sometimes develop after an injection into the eye. Signs of a serious infection may include eye pain, light sensitivity, and/or vision changes. Check with a retinal physician immediately if you experience any of these symptoms, so you can be treated early if an infection occurs.

Eye injections like those with MACUGEN can increase eye pressure. This is something you would not notice; however, your retinal physician may do some extra tests after your injection to make sure there are no complications.

In rare cases, allergic reactions have been known to occur. Tell your retinal physician about any known allergies.

Please follow your retinal physician's recommendations for your therapy. If you have any questions about MACUGEN, ask your retinal physician.

The health information contained herein is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended to replace discussions with a health care provider. All decisions regarding patient care must be made with a health care provider, considering the unique characteristics of the patient.

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