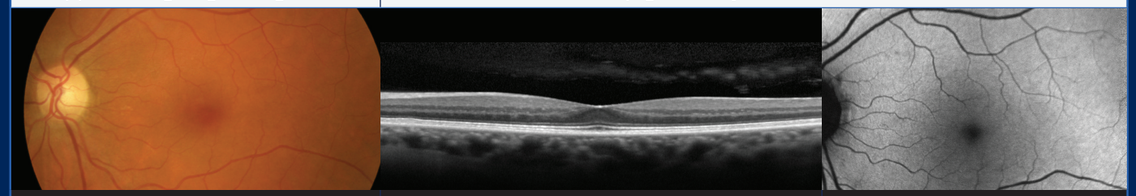
Clinical classification for Aged-Related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

From the 2019 Optometry Australia Clinical Practice Guide for the diagnosis, treatment and management of Age-Related Macular Degeneration.

Optometry AUSTRALIA

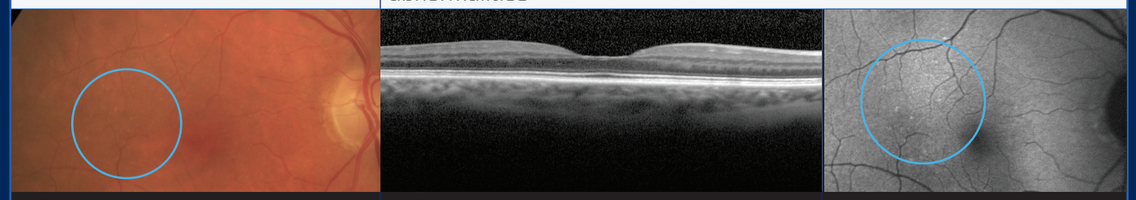
The most current clinical classification scheme for AMD is the Beckman classification.[1] The classifications are determined based on clinical examination (using common ophthalmoscopy equipment, such as an ophthalmoscope or slitlamp with accessory lenses) or evaluation of a fundus photo. Classification is based on fundus lesions within two disc diameters of the fovea in patients older than 55 years of age.

AMD classification	Definition
No apparent ageing changes	No drusen and no AMD pigmentary abnormalities†



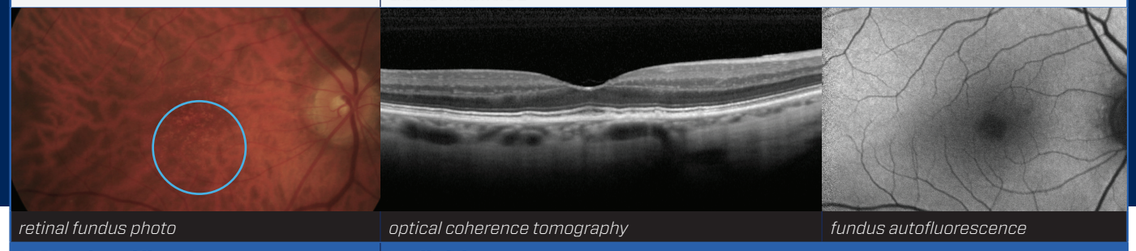
retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

AMD classification	Definition
Normal ageing changes	Only drupelets (small drusen ≤ 63µm) and no AMD pigmentary abnormalities†



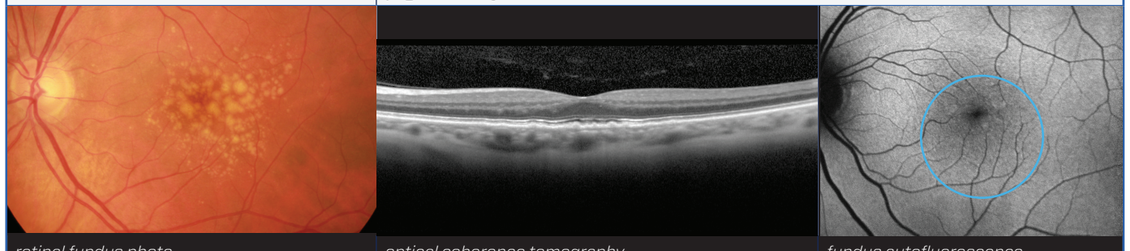
retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

AMD classification	Definition
Early AMD	Medium drusen (> 63µm and ≤ 125µm) and no AMD pigmentary abnormalities†



retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

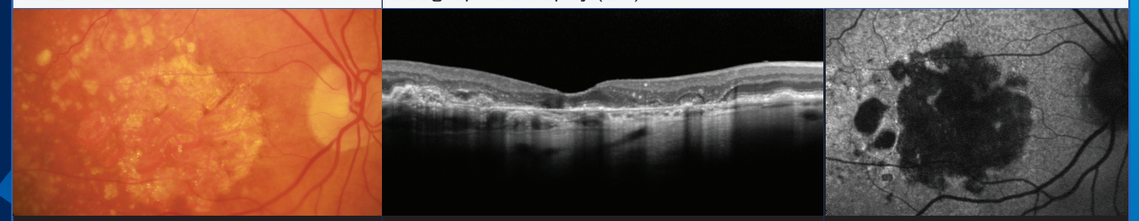
AMD classification	Definition
Intermediate AMD	Large drusen (> 125µm)‡ or medium drusen (> 63µm) in addition to AMD pigmentary abnormalities



retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

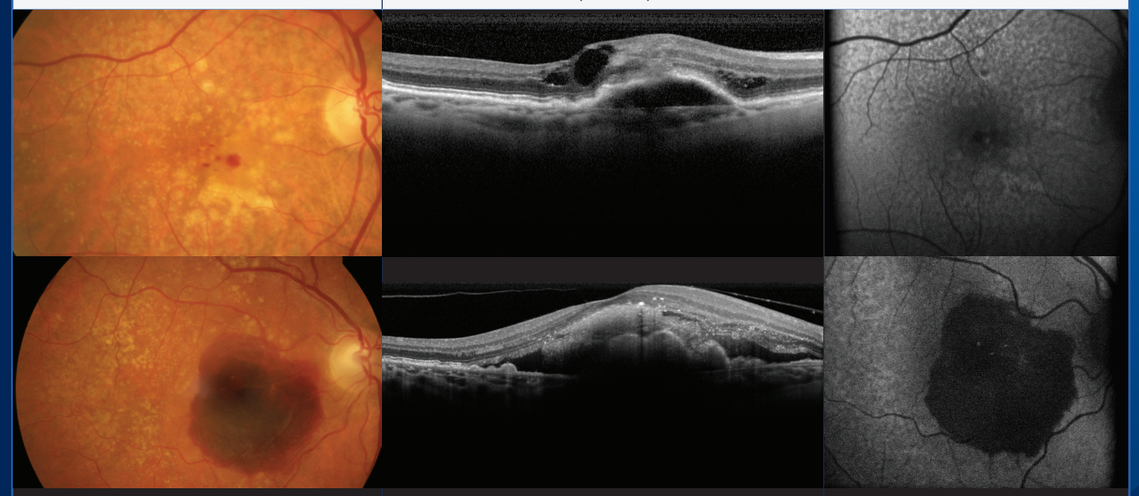
The Beckman classification is based on fundus lesions within two disc diameters of the fovea in patients older than 55 years of age.

AMD classification	Definition
Late AMD	Geographic atrophy (GA)



retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

AMD classification	Definition
Late AMD	Neovascular AMD (nAMD)



retinal fundus photo | *optical coherence tomography* | *fundus autofluorescence*

†AMD pigmentary abnormalities are defined as any definite hyper-pigmentary or hypo-pigmentary abnormalities associated with medium or large drusen, but not associated with known disease entities.

‡125µm is the approximate width of the major retinal venule as it crosses the optic disc margin.

Five-year risk of progression to late AMD[2]

Risk factors	Risk of progression for patients without late AMD in either eye at baseline*	Risk of progression for patients with late AMD in one eye at baseline^
0	0.4%	
1	3.1%	
2	11.8%	14.8%
3	25.9%	35.4%
4	47.3%	53.1%

*** Assign one risk factor: for each eye with large drusen**
- for each eye with pigment abnormalities
- if neither eye has large drusen and both eyes have medium drusen (early AMD)

^ Assign two risk factors for the eye that has late AMD.
- Assign an additional risk factor if the eye at risk has large drusen and an additional risk factor if the eye at risk also has pigmentary abnormalities.

Table 1. The Beckman classification scheme was designed to reflect the fact that risk profiles are linked to the clinical signs of drusen and pigmentary abnormalities. In early AMD (medium drusen only), people have a 3.1 per cent chance of progressing to late AMD within five years.[2] However, once a person has large drusen and pigmentary abnormalities in both eyes (intermediate AMD), this risk increases to around 47.3%.[2] If a patient presents with late AMD in one eye at baseline, the risk of progression in the other eye is slightly higher.[2]

1. Ferris FL, 3rd, Wilkinson CP, Bird A et al. Clinical classification of age-related macular degeneration. *Ophthalmology* 2013; 120: 844-851.
2. Ferris FL, Davis MD, Clemons TE et al. A simplified severity scale for age-related macular degeneration: AREDS Report No. 18. *Arch Ophthalmol* 2005; 123: 1570-1574.