EyeWest Vision Clinic and Optical
13900 Northdale Boulevard
Rogers, Minnesota 55374
P 763.428.3757 F 763.428.9820
E info@eyewestvisionclinic.com

Macular Degeneration

Macular degeneration is the leading cause of central vision loss among older people. Macular degeneration is caused by changes to the macula, the central portion of the retina, responsible for the sharpest possible vision. The macula is many times more sensitive than the rest of the retina and without a healthy macula, seeing details or vivid color is not possible.

There are several causes of macular degeneration. In one type, the tissue of the macula becomes thin and stops working well. This type is thought to be a part of the natural aging process in some people. In another, fluids from newly formed blood vessels leak into the eye and cause vision loss. If detected early, this condition may be managed with laser therapy or other types of treatments. **Early detection and prompt treatment is vital in limiting damage to vision.**

Macular degeneration develops differently in each person, so the symptoms may vary.
But, some of the most common symptoms include:

- A gradual loss of ability to see objects clearly
- Distorted vision. Objects appear to be the wrong size or shape or straight lines appear wavy or crooked.
- A gradual loss of color vision
- A dark or empty area appearing in the center of vision

These symptoms can also occur with other eye diseases. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, you should contact your family eye doctor immediately. In a comprehensive dilated eye examination, your doctor will perform a variety of tests to determine if you have macular degeneration or if another condition is causing your symptoms.

Unfortunately, there is no way to restore sharp vision once it is damaged by macular degeneration. However, since macular degeneration does not damage side vision, visual aids such as telescopic and microscopic lenses, magnifying glasses and electronic magnifiers for close work, can be prescribed to help make the most of remaining vision.

Early detection of macular degeneration is the most important factor in determining if you can be treated effectively and to help maintain visual function.