Supplementary Online Content


eMethods.

This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.
eMethods

Participants

Height, weight, and blood pressures were measured. Body mass index was calculated as weight in kilograms divided by height in meters squared. Date of birth was recorded. Smoking, drinking, and education histories, as well as current income level, were obtained using a standard questionnaire. History of cardiovascular disease (CVD) was defined as a self-reported history of angina, myocardial infarction, or stroke. Arthritis and cancer histories were based on self-report.

Quality assurance procedures were employed throughout the study. Early AMD was defined by presence of soft indistinct drusen or presence of any type of drusen associated with pigmentary abnormality, defined as retinal pigment epithelium (RPE) depigmentation or increased retinal pigment. Late AMD was defined by the presence of pure geographic atrophy (GA), neovascular macular degeneration, or both. Pure GA was defined as a generally round area of RPE atrophy with a minimum diameter of 175 µm, sharply defined borders, and exposed choroidal vessels. Neovascular macular degeneration was defined as the presence of any of these lesions: RPE or sensory serous retinal detachment (elevation of the sensory retina and/or RPE toward the vitreous cavity by fluid, blood, or scar tissue, most easily identifiable in good stereo images by a line of demarcation that may outline the edge of the detachment, change in color in the area of detachment, deviation of retinal blood vessels, and changes in the view of the choroidal pattern), subretinal/sub-RPE hemorrhage (appears as a dark gray or dark red hemorrhage sandwiched between the sensory retina and the RPE or below the RPE, deeper than retinal or preretinal hemorrhages), subretinal fibrous/disciform scar secondary to a serous/blood filled detachment (appears as a yellow-white fibrotic scar found below the sensory retina and/or below the RPE), subretinal new vessels (often difficult to see in color fundus photographs without the aid of a fluorescein angiogram, but when visible appear as a cluster of new dilated blood vessels below the RPE with a poorly organized pattern), and/or history of any type of treatment for neovascular AMD.

The severity levels of AMD and their descriptions are:

10 (No AMD): Hard drusen or small soft drusen (<125 µm in diameter) only, regardless of area of involvement and no pigmentary abnormalities; or no definite drusen with any pigmentary abnormality.

20 (Minimally severe early AMD): Hard drusen or small soft drusen (<125 µm in diameter), regardless of area of involvement, with any pigmentary abnormality; or soft drusen (≥125 µm in diameter) with drusen area <331,820 µm² (equivalent to O₂, a circle with a diameter of 650 µm) and no pigmentary abnormalities.

30 (Moderately severe early AMD): Soft drusen (≥125 µm in diameter) with drusen area <331,820 µm² (equivalent to O₂) and with any pigmentary abnormality; or soft drusen (≥125 µm in diameter) with drusen area ≥331,820 µm² (equivalent to O₂) without increased retinal pigment but no RPE depigmentation.

40 (Severe early AMD): Soft drusen (≥125 µm in diameter) with drusen area ≥331,820 µm² (equivalent to O₂) and RPE depigmentation present, with or without increased retinal pigment.

50 (Late AMD): Pure GA in the absence of neovascular macular degeneration; or neovascular macular degeneration with or without GA present.