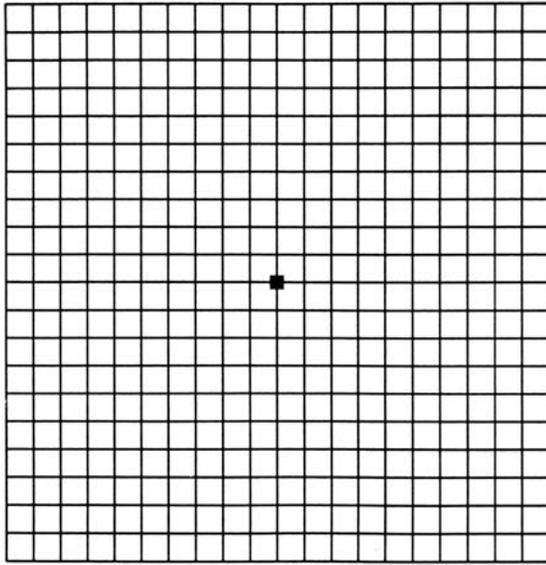


Test Your Sight for Early Signs of AMD



AMSLER GRID

1. Make sure you are in a well lighted area, hold or post the chart at eye level and at a comfortable reading distance.
2. If you wear glasses, keep them on. If you wear bifocals, use the bottom or reading portion of the lens.
3. Cover one eye and look at the dot in the center of the grid. Note whether there are any distortions or breaks in the lines of the grid or whether the center dot, a part of the dot, or any of the lines disappear. Blurred or double images might not necessarily be abnormal. The use of progressive, lineless bifocals may introduce some distortions.
4. Test the other eye in the same way. If you experience any of the following:

Blurring or grey areas

Distortion or wavy lines

Holes or spots in any areas of the grid

Visit your eye care specialist immediately.

Give a Gift of Sight

American Friends of NAMAG-Association of AMD Patients in Israel, Inc. is a tax-exempt non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the US Internal Revenue Code, and as such, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Contributions/checks can be mailed to:

American Friends of NAMAG
c/o. Lawrence Loewenthal., MD
28395 Brooks Lane
Southfield, Michigan 48034

Or deposited directly to:

Comerica Bank
39400 Woodward Avenue, Suite 255
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Account # 1852674017

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Don't Lose Sight!

Don't lose sight of the fact that 1 out of every 6 men and women over 65 is likely to lose central vision due to AMD (Age-Related Macular Degeneration), a retinal disorder which is the number one cause of legal blindness in the developed world.



AMD & NAMAG

How Does NAMAG Help AMD Patients?

Our Goals

AMD is a hereditary condition that affects such vital functions as reading, driving, computer and TV viewing and recognizing faces. The risk of developing AMD increases steeply with age, and reaches 40% at the age of 80 and above. In Israel, each year 2,000 people fall victim to "wet" AMD (the more advanced stage) and 4 to 5 times as many show signs of the early "dry", stage. Many of the AMD Victims are Holocaust survivors and recent immigrants from the Former Soviet Union.

Although there is no known cure for AMD, there are now a number of promising new treatments that can, in a significant number of cases, arrest, and even reverse damage to the eye. The availability of these new treatments makes regular checkups for early diagnosis and treatment more urgent now, than ever before.

NAMAG is the only organization in Israel disseminating information about AMD and dealing with the rehabilitation of AMD patients, and the physical, psychological and practical aspects of coping with the condition.

A non-profit, tax-exempt organization, manned mainly by volunteers, NAMAG now boasts more than 1,600 dues-paying members. NAMAG is a member of the AMD Alliance International and is represented on its European Board of Directors.

Disseminating the latest information regarding treatment centers, new therapies, low vision aids, and new directions in research

Support and Guidance Groups including a daily Hot-line, 21 local support groups, numerous public information events, counseling sessions, and psychologists for AMD patients and their families.

Lobbying government authorities, public and business entities for support of services that assist AMD patients.

Strengthening Ties between the medical establishment and those groups and caregivers providing support and rehabilitation for AMD sufferers.

Pilot Workshops for Peripheral Vision for patients who are losing their central vision due to AMD.

Providing Discounts and advice on dietary supplements, LVA (Low Vision Aids), as well as lending out CCTV reading aids.

New Immigrant Outreach Programs to provide information and guidance to populations, many of them in outlying areas, that have not previously had access to such services.

Developing effective wide-ranging media campaigns, including an improved multilingual website, to raise public awareness and promote early diagnosis and treatment of AMD and thus save the sight of thousands of potential victims.

Strengthening ties with ophthalmologists, retina specialists and rehabilitation centers to increase their awareness of the services and support resources available through NAMAG.

Intensifying efforts to promote financial support from Israel's Health Ministry for available treatments with Lucentis, the only medication currently FDA-approved for "wet" AMD.

Mobilizing more volunteers to help our core of active members, many of whom are themselves visually impaired, and to intensify our fund-raising efforts, an even more urgent task in these difficult economic times.