



**veonet**  
Ireland

Specialist Eye Clinics

# Age-related macular degeneration

What you need to know.

## Your Treatment at Veonet Ireland

Age-related macular degeneration (AMD) becomes more common as we get older. At around 60 years of age, only a small number of people are affected, but by 90, it is estimated that around one in five will have some degree of AMD.

It's also one of the leading causes of sight loss in the UK, with hundreds of thousands of people currently living with the condition, according to national ophthalmology data.

AMD affects the macula, the part of the eye responsible for sharp, central vision. As the condition progresses, reading, recognising faces, and seeing fine detail may become more difficult, but many people find that, with the right support, they can continue living life as fully and independently as possible.

At Veonet Ireland, our vision is to set the standard for private ophthalmology in Ireland, where every patient benefits from better access, better care and better outcomes. This brochure is here to guide you through what AMD is, how it may affect your vision and the options and steps that can help you feel more prepared and confident

## What is AMD?

AMD is a common eye condition that affects central vision in one or both eyes. It happens when the macula, the part of the retina that helps you see fine detail, becomes damaged.

There are two main types of AMD:

- **Dry AMD:** the more common type, caused by gradual natural changes.
- **Wet AMD:** a less common but faster-acting type, linked to fragile new blood vessels beneath the retina that leak fluid or blood.

Complete blindness is not a result of AMD. You can still move around safely and independently because you have some side vision. With minor modifications or low-vision aids, many people can continue their regular activities.



## What causes AMD?

AMD develops when the macula stops working as well as it should. The retina acts a little like camera film, turning light into signals for your brain. When the macula is damaged, these signals become less clear, leading to blurred or distorted central vision.

The two forms develop differently:

- Dry AMD occurs as part of the natural ageing process.
- Wet AMD happens when new, fragile blood vessels grow under the retina and may bleed or leak fluid.

Even though AMD affects detailed vision, it does not completely impair vision. Your peripheral vision continues to work, which helps you get around, navigate familiar spaces and stay independent.

## What are the signs and symptoms of AMD?

People with AMD may notice changes that make detailed tasks harder, such as:

- Difficulty reading or seeing small print
- Struggling to recognise faces
- Straight lines appearing wavy or distorted
- Reduced confidence when driving
- A blurred or dark patch in the centre of vision

If you have AMD, your side vision usually stays clear



## What is the treatment for AMD?

Although AMD cannot be cured, there are ways to help manage it and protect your vision as much as possible.

- Dry AMD currently has no medical treatment. Stopping smoking and taking certain vitamin supplements may help slow changes. Your ophthalmologist will discuss what is most suitable for you.
- Wet AMD can be treated with anti-VEGF injections, and sometimes Photodynamic Therapy (cold laser) to reduce further vision loss.

To help decide whether treatment is right for you, you may have a fluorescein angiogram. This involves a small amount of dye being injected into your arm before photographs of the back of your eye are taken.

This gives your specialist a clear view of what is happening and how best to help you. Even if medical treatment is not needed or recommended, there is still support available.

Low-vision aids and simple home changes can make daily tasks easier and give you more confidence.

## Who gives the treatment?

If you need treatment, it will be carried out by one of our experienced retinal specialists. They will talk you through each step, answer any questions and make sure you feel comfortable before, during and after the procedure.

## What happens after treatment?

It is normal to have a few mild symptoms afterwards as your eye settles. These usually improve within a few days. You may notice:

- Slight discomfort or irritation
- Some blurring of vision
- Mild redness or sensitivity to light

You can continue most everyday activities, but avoid getting water directly into the eye and do not swim for several days. Follow-up appointments will be arranged to check your progress and see whether any further treatment would be helpful.



## What are the risks of this treatment?

All medical procedures carry some risks, but serious problems are uncommon. Understanding the risks of AMD treatment can help you feel informed and prepared.

### Common short-lived effects may include:

- Mild discomfort
- Blurred or dim vision for a short time
- Increased sensitivity to bright light

### Less common but more serious risks include:

- Inflammation or swelling
- Small areas of retinal damage
- Reduced central vision if scarring develops
- The return of abnormal blood vessels, sometimes needing further treatment

Your retinal specialist will discuss these risks in more detail before your treatment. They'll take the time to answer any questions you may have and listen to your concerns.

## How to contact us

Contact your Veonet Ireland Clinic for appointment information or questions about your treatment.



Ireland 01 270 7888

NI 028 9002 9002

(Monday - Friday, 07:30 - 17:30)

[info@veonet-ireland.com](mailto:info@veonet-ireland.com)



## Feedback and complaints

At Veonet Ireland, patient experience is at the heart of everything we do. Feedback helps us to continually improve our services and celebrate what we do well.

**Compliments** - If you've had a positive experience with our team, we'd love to hear about it. Sharing your story helps us recognise and thank our staff for the care they provide.

**Suggestions and feedback** - We welcome ideas on how we can improve our services, facilities, or communication. Every suggestion is carefully reviewed and considered.

**Complaints** - If something hasn't met your expectations, please let us know. We take all concerns seriously and will work with you to resolve them quickly, fairly, and with respect.

## How to share your feedback

- Speak directly with our patient experience team during your visit.
- Call our patient experience team on **ROI 01 270 7888 or NI 028 9002 9002**
- Email us at [patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com](mailto:patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com)

Your voice matters. Whether it's a compliment, suggestion, or complaint, your feedback helps us deliver the highest standard of care for every patient.

## Accessibility

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**Larger Print** - We can provide this brochure in a larger font size for easier reading.

**Braille** - Copies are available in Braille upon request.

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To request this brochure in an alternative format, please contact:

**T** ROI 01 270 7888 or NI 028 9002 9002

**E** [Patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com](mailto:Patientexperience@veonet-ireland.com)

Veonet Ireland is committed to making all of our information accessible, so every patient can engage with and benefit from our services.

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