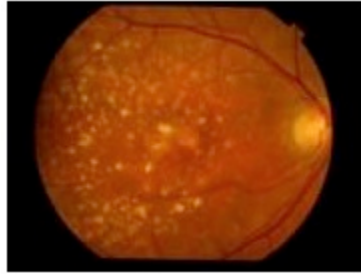


Macular Degeneration

Macular degeneration is the most common cause of visual loss in the elderly. It is more common in people with lighter colored eyes (blue and green), though it may occur in anyone.



Macular Degeneration

Macular degeneration may cause no visual changes in some people and gradual loss of central vision in others. In dry macular degeneration, an abnormal fatty material called lipofuscin is deposited under the retina. This material forms white spots called Drusen. The central part of the retina can also atrophy (die), and this may lead to slow central loss of vision in the eyes. In wet macular degeneration, vessels beneath the retina bleed or leak, and patients can lose vision all of a sudden. Patients may also suddenly experience distortion in their vision – straight lines, such as door frames, may appear wavy.