

Geographic Atrophy

GA and Your Eyes

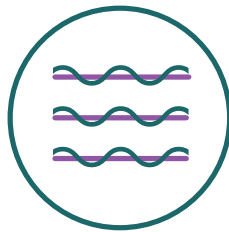
GA Signs & Symptoms



Difficulty seeing in the dark



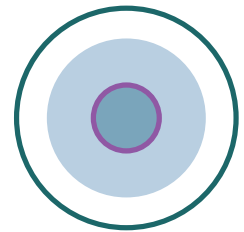
Hazy or blurred vision



Straight lines appear crooked



Blurry spots in centre of vision



Colours seem dull or washed out

What Is Geographic Atrophy (GA)?

GA is an advanced form of **age-related macular degeneration**, or AMD. It can lead to permanent and irreversible vision loss that cannot be corrected with glasses or surgery.

If you have GA you are not alone. Approximately 75,000 people in Australia are affected by GA.

● GA affects the **retina** – a thin layer of tissue lining the back of the eye that senses light, allowing you to see.

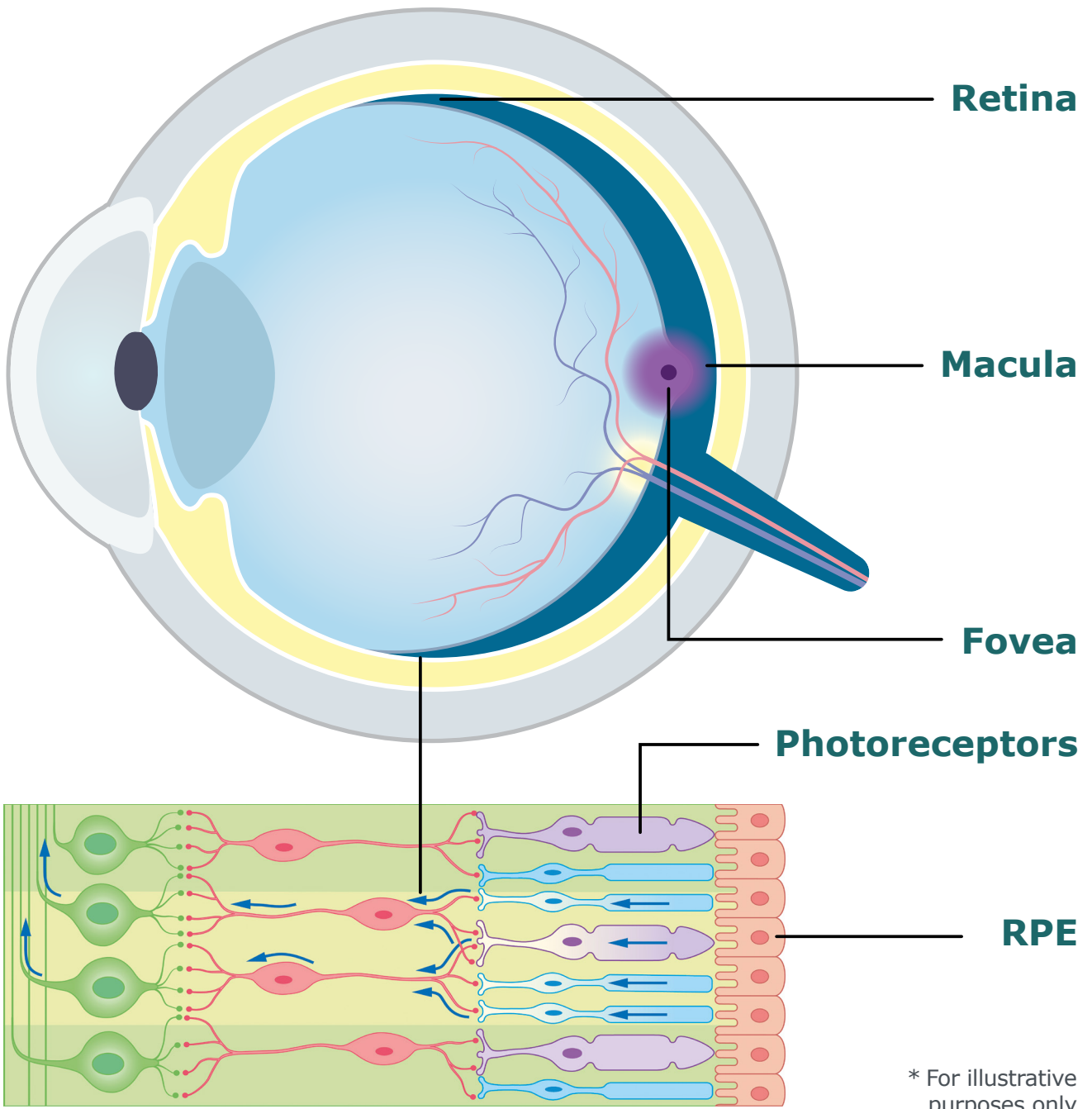
● The retina contains:

- The **macula**—and its central part, the **fovea**—to help create detailed vision
- **Photoreceptors** which are specialised cells used for colour vision and night vision
- The retinal pigment epithelium (**RPE**) which supports vision and the health of the retina

In GA, cells in the retina start to die, or atrophy. When your doctor looks at your retina, these regions of dead and dying cells look like areas on a map, which is why it's called "geographic atrophy".

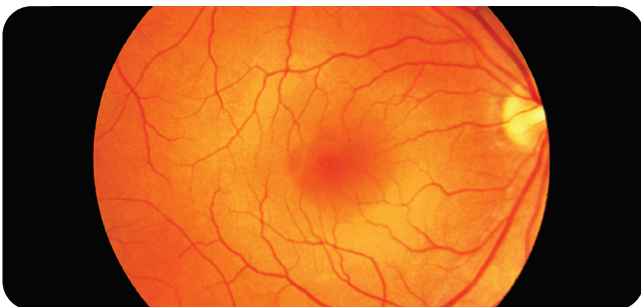
As GA gets worse, it can cause reduced vision and blurriness in the areas you are trying to focus on. Common activities like reading and driving at night may become harder as your vision changes.

Inside Your Eye*

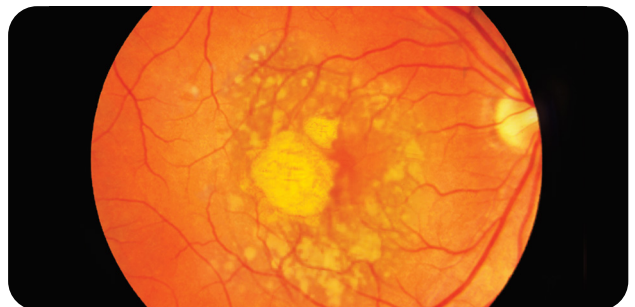


* For illustrative purposes only

Healthy Eye

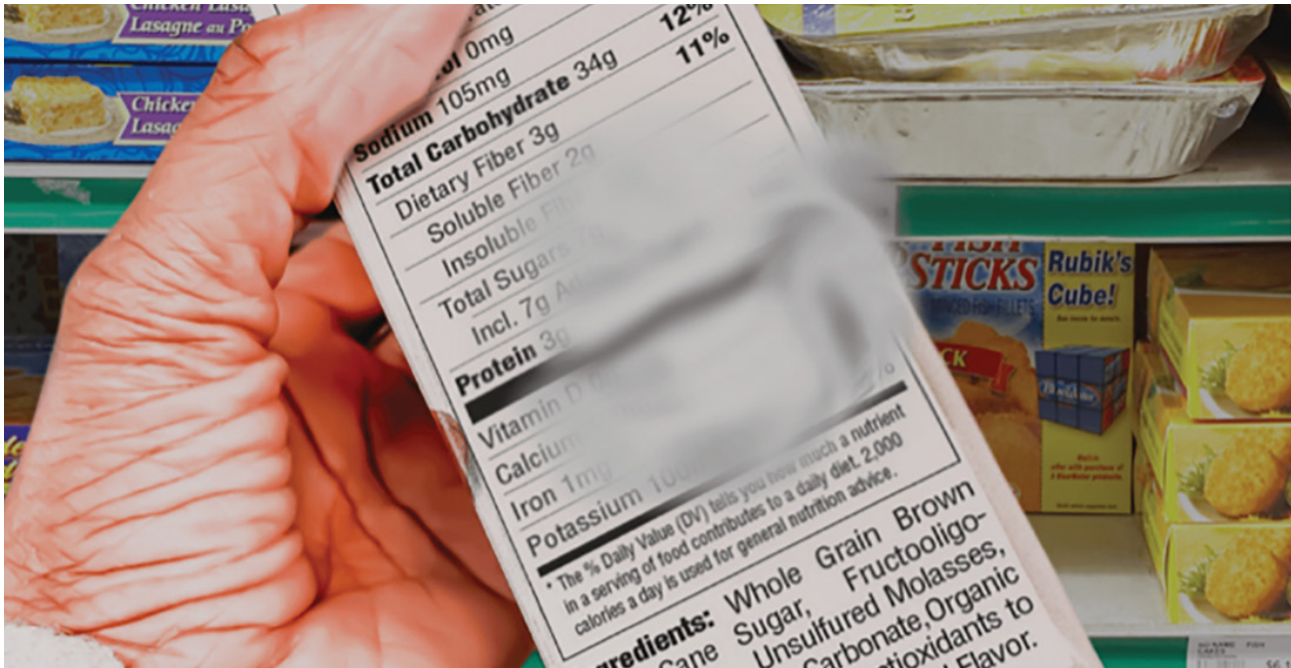


Eye with GA



RPE=The retinal pigment epithelium

Vision Changes With GA[†]



GA can affect central vision when it nears the fovea, creating a blurry spot that can grow larger over time.

[†]For illustrative purposes only. Vision impairment due to GA may vary.

It's important to talk to your doctor about any changes in your vision to help them to better monitor the progression of GA.

Additional Support & Resources

- **Macular Disease Foundation Australia** - mdfoundation.com.au
- **Retina Australia** - retinaaustralia.com.au
- **Vision 2020 Australia** - vision2020australia.org.au