ARMD risk factors:

- Family history
- Light irides
- Age
- Smoking
- Hyperopia

The mnemonic is FLASH
ARMD risk factors:

- **F** (two factors)
- **L**
- **A**
- **S** (two factors)
- **H**

The mnemonic is **FLASH**
ARMD risk factors:

- Family history; Female
- Light irides
- Age
- Smoking; Sun exposure
- Hyperopia

The mnemonic is **FLASH**
**Q**

This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

**Dry ARMD DDx**

Start here, and work your way down the list

- **Pattern dystrophy**
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Wet ARMD DDx**
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Macroaneurysms
Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

Wet ARMD DDx
**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- CSR
- RPE change after CSR
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Briefly, what is a pattern dystrophy?**

An inherited macular dystrophy that has a characteristic appearance (ie, a particular ‘pattern’).

**What is the inheritance pattern?**

AD

**Are pattern dystrophies associated with severe vision loss?**

Generally no--vision is only slightly affected.

**Do the macular ‘patterns’ appear early in life?**

Generally no--they usually show up in middle adulthood.

The BCSC Retina book identifies four pattern dystrophies by name--what are they?
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx

Wet ARMD DDx

**Pattern dystrophy**

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

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Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

RPE change after CSR

Small choroidal melanoma

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

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--Adult-onset foveomacular vitelliform dystrophy
--Reticular dystrophy
--Fundus pulverulentus
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Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Macroneurysms
  Cuticular drusen
  Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
  Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
  Central serous chorioretinopathy
  RPE change after CSC
  Small choroidal melanoma
  Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

Wet ARMD DDx
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Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Wet ARMD DDx

Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity
## Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
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- RPE change after CSR
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### Questions on Macroaneurysms

**What is a retinal macroaneurysm?**

A focal dilatation of one of the early branches on the arteriolar side of the retinal circulatory tree.

**Are they more likely to occur in the temporal, or nasal retina?**

Temporal

**Is it common to have multiple macroAs in an eye?**

Yes

**Is it common to have macroAs bilaterally?**

No, they are bilateral in 10% or fewer of cases.

**Are there any systemic risk factors?**

Yes—HTN (it is present in as many as 75% of cases).

**Is age a risk factor?**

Yes, most pts are over 50 years old.

**Is gender a risk factor?**

Yes, a preponderance of the pts are female.

**By what two mechanisms do macroAs affect vision?**

By bleeding, or leaking (ie, causing macular edema).

**How are macroAs managed?**

Via observation, or anti-VEGF agents, or photocoagulation.
What is a retinal macroaneurysm?
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- CSR
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- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macrophage infiltration
- Tegaderm dressing
- Tapering off the tapering off
- Macrophage infiltration
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**Questions**

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### Wet ARMD DDx
- Macular edema
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Slowly progressive atrophy

---

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Yes, a preponderance of the pts are female.

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Yes—HTN. (It is present in as many as 75% of cases.)

**How are macroAs managed?**

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### Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

### Wet ARMD DDx

- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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### Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- CSR
- RPE change after CSR

### Wet ARMD DDx
- Macular pucker
- Fatty exudate
- Retinal detachment
- Lipoid exudate
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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**Is age a risk factor?**
Yes, most pts are over 50 years old

**Is gender a risk factor?**
Yes, a preponderance of the pts are she’s

**By what two mechanisms do macroAs affect vision?**
By bleeding, or leaking (ie, causing macular edema)

**How are macroAs managed?**
Via observation, or anti-VEGF agents, or photocoagulation
### What is a retinal macroaneurysm?
A focal dilatation of one of the early branches on the arteriolar side of the retinal circulatory tree.

### Are they more likely to occur in the temporal, or nasal retina?
Temporal.

### Is it common to have multiple macroAs in an eye?
Yes.

### Is it common to have macroAs bilaterally?
No, they are bilateral in 10% or fewer of cases.

### Are there any systemic risk factors?
Yes-- HTN. (It is present in as many as 75% of cases.)

### Is age a risk factor?
Yes, most pts are over 50 years old.

### Is gender a risk factor?
Yes, a preponderance of the pts are she's.

### By what two mechanisms do macroAs affect vision?
By bleeding, or leaking (ie, causing macular edema).

### How are macroAs managed?
Via observation, or anti-VEGF agents, or photocoagulation.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms

**Cuticular drusen**

- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx

- Macroaneurysms
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  - Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

*What are drusen?*

Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE. There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen).

- **Cuticular drusen** aka basal laminar drusen
- **Basal linear drusen** aka soft drusen
- **Reticular (pseudo)drusen**
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD. Divide it into the respective differentials:

### Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen

### Wet ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE.

---

**Cuticular drusen**
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity
**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen). What are they?

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- Cuticular drusen
- Basal linear drusen
- Reticular (pseudo)drusen

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**Cuticular drusen**
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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**Macraaneurysms**

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**DDx**

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**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen

---

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
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Cuticular drusen

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

*There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen). What are they?*

--*Cuticular drusen aka…*
--Basal linear drusen
--Reticular (pseudo)drusen

*Cuticular drusen are known by what other name?* 
Basal laminar drusen

**Macroaneurysms**

- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
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--Basal linear drusen
--Reticular (pseudo)drusen

Cuticular drusen are known by what other name?
Basal laminar drusen

Macroaneurysms
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**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

*There are three main types:*
- *Cuticular drusen* aka... *basal laminar drusen* aka...
- *Basal linear drusen* aka...
- *Reticular (pseudo)drusen*

Based on their appearance, *cuticular/basal laminar drusen* and *basal linear drusen* are known by what other names?

---

**Cuticular drusen**
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity
### Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

### Wet ARMD DDx

- Macular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**What are drusen?** Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE.

There are three main types of drusen:

- **Cuticular drusen** aka…basal laminar drusen aka…hard drusen
- **Basal linear drusen** aka…soft drusen
- **Reticular (pseudo)drusen**

Based on their appearance, cuticular/basal laminar drusen and basal linear drusen are known by what other names? **Hard** drusen and **soft** drusen, respectively.
What are drusen?
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

There are three main types:

What are they?
--Cuticular drusen aka basal laminar drusen aka hard drusen
--Basal linear drusen aka soft drusen
--Reticular (pseudo)drusen

Based on their appearance, cuticular/basal laminar drusen and basal linear drusen are known by what other names?

Hard drusen and soft drusen, respectively

What is meant by a soft vs hard appearance?
It refers to how sharply the drusen are demarcated, ie, how well-defined their borders are.
**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

---

**What are drusen?**

Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

**There are three main types:**

**What are they?**

-- Cuticular drusen aka... basal laminar drusen aka... **hard drusen**
-- Basal linear drusen aka... **soft drusen**
-- Reticular (pseudo)drusen

**Cuticular drusen**

Based on their appearance, cuticular/basal laminar drusen and basal linear drusen are known by what other names?

**Hard drusen and soft drusen**, respectively

**What is meant by a soft vs hard appearance?**

It refers to how sharply the drusen are demarcated, ie, how well-defined their borders are.
**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen). What are they?
- **Cuticular drusen** aka… **basal laminar drusen** aka… hard drusen
  --Basal linear drusen aka… **soft** drusen
  --Reticular (pseudo)drusen

- **Where are cuticular/basal laminar drusen found?**
  - Between the basement membrane of the RPE and the basal membrane—‘basal lamina,’ get it?—of the RPE cells

**Diagram:**
- **Cuticular drusen**
  - PR outer segs
  - RPE cells
  - RPE cells

**Layers:**
- Basement membrane of RPE
- Inner collagenous layer
- Elastic layer
- Outer collagenous layer
- Basement membrane of choriocapillaris
**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE.

*There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen).*

**What are they?**
- **Cuticular drusen** *aka*... basal laminar drusen *aka*... hard drusen
  -- Basal linear drusen *aka*... soft drusen
  -- Reticular (pseudo)drusen

---

**Where are cuticular/basal laminar drusen found?**
Between the basement membrane of the RPE and the basal membrane--‘basal lamina,’ get it?--of the RPE cells.
What are drusen?
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen).
What are they?
--Cuticular drusen aka...basal laminar drusen aka...hard drusen
--Basal linear drusen aka...soft drusen
--Reticular (pseudo)drusen

Where are basal linear drusen found?
Within the fibers of the inner collagenous layer
What are drusen?
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen). What are they?
--Cuticular drusen aka...basal laminar drusen aka...hard drusen
--**Basal linear drusen** aka...soft drusen
--Reticular (pseudo)drusen

**Cuticular drusen**

PR outer segs

RPE cells

RPE cells

**Basement membrane** of RPE

**Inner collagenous layer**

**Elastic layer**

**Outer collagenous layer**

**Basement membrane** of choriocapillaris

Where are basal linear drusen found?
Within the fibers of the inner collagenous layer

**Basal linear drusen**

Cuticular/basal laminar drusen
**What are drusen?**
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

*There are three main types of entities that are drusen-like (two actually are drusen).*

- Cuticular drusen *aka* basal laminar drusen *aka* hard drusen
- Basal linear drusen *aka* soft drusen
- Reticular (pseudo)drusen

**Where are reticular pseudodrusen found?**

Between the apical surface of the RPE and the overlying PRs (i.e., just under the neurosensory retina)

---

**Diagram:**

- **Cuticular/drusen**
- **PR outer segs**
- **RPE cells**
- **Elastic layer**
- **Inner collagenous layer**
- **Basement membrane of RPE**
- **Outer collagenous layer**
- **Basement membrane of choriocapillaris**

**Labels:**

- **Cuticular/basal laminar drusen**
- **Basal linear drusen**
What are drusen?
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Where are reticular pseudodrusen found?
Between the apical surface of the RPE and the overlying PRs (ie, just under the neurosensory retina)

What are drusen?
Small, round-ish, yellow-ish deposits just beneath the RPE

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Where are reticular pseudodrusen found?
Between the apical surface of the RPE and the overlying PRs (ie, just under the neurosensory retina)
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
  - RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity
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- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?

The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow. With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?

VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPC
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment**

*What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?*
The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous retinopathy
- RPE change after CSR
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment**

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?
The name says it all--an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?
The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?
VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.
### Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

### Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous retinopathy
- RPE change after Central Serous Retinopathy (CSR)
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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### Vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)

**What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?**
The name says it all—**an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow**.

**Hmm…** An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid… What condition does that sound like?
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous retinopathy
- RPE change after CSR
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?
The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow

Hmm…An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid…What condition does that sound like?
Best disease
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

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What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)? The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

Hmm…An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid…What condition does that sound like? Best disease

Are VEMD and Best dz related?
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment**

*What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?*

The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow

Hmm…An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid…

*What condition does that sound like?*

Best disease

Are VEMD and Best dz related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

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VEMD and Best dz

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?

The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?

VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.

Hmm…An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid…What condition does that sound like?

Best disease

Are VEMD and Best dz related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)**
- Life-stage of onset?
  - Childhood
  - Adulthood

**Best disease**
- VEMD and Best dz
- Are they related?
  - No, but their appearance can be very similar
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

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- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment**

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**Are VEMD and Best dz related?**
No, but their appearance can be very similar

**What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?**
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**What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?**

The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?

VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.

Hmm…An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid…

What condition does that sound like?

Best disease

Are VEMD and Best dz related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.

**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms

**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)**

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**What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?**

The name says it all— an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.

With what (discussed recently in this slide-set) lesion is it associated?

VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.

Best disease:

- VEMD
- Best dz

Are they related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar.
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Best disease?

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This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

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- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

Wet ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?

The name says it all—an exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow. With what (discussed recently in this slide set) lesion is it associated?

VEMD occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.

Hmm… An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid… What condition does that sound like?

Best disease?

Are VEMD and Best dz related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar.

Best dz VEMD

Life-stage of onset?

Childhood

Adulthood

Cuticular drusen present?

No

Yes

EOG abnormal?

Yes

No

What does EOG stand for?

Electro-oculogram

In a nutshell, what does an electro-oculogram measure?

RPE function

Again in a nutshell, how does it work?

The resting potential of the RPE is measured in both the light- and dark-adapted states, and a ratio of the two resting potentials is calculated.

What is this ratio called?

The Arden ratio

What is the normal range for the Arden ratio?

1.9-2.8

At what value is the Arden ratio considered definitely abnormal?

Below 1.7 (it's usually <1.5 in Best dz, and ratios as low as 1.1 are not uncommon)
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Best disease?

Are VEMD and Best dz related?

No, but their appearance can be very similar.

Best dz, VEMD

Life-stage of onset?

Childhood, adulthood

Cuticular drusen present?

No, yes

EOG abnormal?

Yes, no

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Best disease

- VEMD

Life-stage of onset?

- Childhood
- Adulthood

Cuticular drusen present?

- No
- Yes

EOG abnormal?

- Yes
- No

What does EOG stand for?

Electro-oculogram

What does EOG stand for? Electro-oculogram

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Pattern dystrophy

Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**

Macroaneurysms

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- Childhood
- Adulthood

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- Yes

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Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen
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Wet ARMD DDx

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- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

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Wet ARMD DDx

Macroaneurysms
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Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
CSR
RPE change after CSR
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Wet ARMD DDx
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- Pattern dystrophy
- Macular atrophy
- Cuticular drusen
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macular atrophy
- Cuticular drusen
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- RPE change after CSR
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- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy

**Cuticular drusen/VEMD tl;dr**
Cuticular drusen can mimic **dry ARMD**.
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.

**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
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**Cuticular drusen/VEMD tl;dr**
- Cuticular drusen can mimic **dry ARMD**.
- Cuticular drusen can also lead to VEMD, which in turn…
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

Cuticular drusen/VEMD tl;dr

Cuticular drusen can mimic **dry ARMD**.
Cuticular drusen can also lead to VEMD, which in turn... can mimic **wet ARMD**.
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- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
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**Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy**
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE change after CSC
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**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

*How does polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) present?*

*Yes, females are more likely to be affected*

*Yes, individuals of (East) Asian and African heritage are more likely to be affected*

*Between 50 and 70 years of age*
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Cuticular drusen

Macroaneurysms

Central serous chorioretinopathy

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

How does polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) present?
With recurrent, multifocal serous/sanguinous detachments of the RPE
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*Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy*

*How does polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) present?*
With recurrent, multifocal *serous/sanguinous* detachments of the RPE

*Where does this fluid and blood come from?*

*Yes, females are more likely to be affected*

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*It's all in the name. The choroidal vasculature contains polyp-shaped terminal dilatations that leach serum and/or heme. Hence, poly-poidal choroidal vasculopathy.*
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**How does polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV) present?**
With recurrent, multifocal serous/sanguinous detachments of the RPE

**Is there a gender predilection?**
Yes, females are more likely to be affected.
Yes, individuals of (East) Asian and African heritage are more likely to be affected.

**During what age range does it typically present?**
Between 50 and 70 years of age.
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With recurrent, multifocal serous/sanguinous detachments of the RPE

Is there a gender predilection?
Yes, females are more likely to be affected
Pattern dystrophy
Macroaneurysms
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What percentage of cases of presumed wet ARMD are actually PCV in:
- Whites?
  No more than about 5%
- East Asians?
  Estimates run as high as an astonishing 50%! 
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Between 50 and 70 years of age
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In a nutshell, what is the pathophysiology of CSC?

Choroidal hyperpermeability + impaired RPE barrier function → serous retinal detachment(s)

How does CSC present?
With visual dysfunction—decreased VA, dyschromatopsia, metamorphopsia, etc

Who is the typical pt?
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**RPE change after CSC**

After CSC (especially chronic CSC), the RPE can acquire a ‘granular’ appearance that mimics dry ARMD
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For what it’s worth: The *Retina* book spends more time discussing CSC as a mimic of both forms of ARMD than it does any other cause!