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

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
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Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Briefly, what is a pattern dystrophy?

Wet ARMD DDx

Macroaneurysms
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What is the inheritance pattern?
Dry ARMD DDx

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Wet ARMD DDx

Macroaneurysms
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Are pattern dystrophies associated with severe vision loss?

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

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**Dry ARMD DDx**

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--R
--F

*The mnemonic is…BARF?*

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

Macrapneurysms
Pattern dystrophy

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

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The BCSC Retina book identifies four pattern dystrophies by name--what are they?
--Butterfly dystrophy
--Adult-onset foveomacular vitelliform dystrophy
--Reticular dystrophy
--Fundus pulverulentus

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- Butterfly dystrophy
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**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy

**Wet ARMD DDx**

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

Pattern dystrophy

Wet ARMD DDx

Macroaneurysms

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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
**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen
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**What is a retinal macroaneurysm?**
A focal dilatation of one of the early branches on the arteriolar side of the retinal circulatory tree

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macoaneurysms
- Vitreous detachment
- Retinal neovascularization
- Retinal detachment
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Choroidal neovascularization
- Retinal vein occlusion
- Age-related macular degeneration
- Central serous retinopathy
- Retinal pigment epithelial detachments
- Retinal neovascularization

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1A) FP of eye with a retinal arteriole macroaneurysm, evidenced by exudation and subretinal blood in the area of an arteriolar bifurcation. (1B) FA in the early phase highlights the focal hyperfluorescent dilation of the arteriole.

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

- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms

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**Dry ARMD DDx**

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

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms

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**Q&A**

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**Dry ARMD DDx**

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

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**Q/A**

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms
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- Retinal detachment
- Macular edema
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**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
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- Cuticular drusen
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Macroaneurysm: Bleeding, and macular edema
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- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
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- RPE change after CSR
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- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macular hole
- RPE detachment
- Retinal detachment
- Neovascular oфтalmopathy
- Neovascular glaucoma

---

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**Wet ARMD DDx**

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*Macroneurysms* (Macroaneurysms)

*Cortical drusen*

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Wet ARMD DDx

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

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

**What are drusen?**

- **Cuticular drusen**
- **Macroaneurysms**

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
- Macroaneurysms
- Cuticular drusen

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

---

**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
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

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

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

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

**Wet 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

---

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

### Wet ARMD DDx

<table>
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### Dry ARMD DDx

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

**Cuticular drusen are known by what other name?**
Basal laminar 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
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

Wet ARMD DDx
Pattern dystrophy
Macroaneurysms
Pattern dystrophy
Pattern dystrophy
Macroaneurysms
Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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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…
--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
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
- Cuticular drusen

What are drusen?

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

There are three main types:
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- 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

**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

Cuticular drusen
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…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

Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

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

**Wet ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- Pattern dystrophy
- Macroaneurysms
- 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:*
- **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
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.
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.
**This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials**

**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
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

**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
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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 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.
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

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

Basal linear drusen

Cuticular/basal laminar 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

Bruch’s membrane

Macroaneurysms
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

---

**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 reticular pseudodrusen found?**

Between the apical surface of the RPE and the overlying PRs (i.e., just under the neurosensory retina).
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 reticular pseudodrusen found?
Between the apical surface of the RPE and the overlying PRs (i.e., 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
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.
What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?
What is vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD)?
The name says it all—a disorganized, exudative detachment of the macula in which the subretinal fluid is yellow.
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**
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment. Note the cuticular drusen.

This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.
Pattern dystrophy
Cuticular drusen

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?
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
Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chororetinopathy
- RPE change after CSR
- 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.

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?
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
**Q**

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

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**Vitelliform exudative macular detachment**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>VEMD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Life-stage of onset?</td>
<td>?</td>
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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

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**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.
- 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

Wet ARMD DDx
- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

**Best dz**
- Life-stage of onset?
  - Childhood
- Cuticular drusen present?
  - ?

**VEMD**
- Life-stage of onset?
  - Adulthood
- Cuticular drusen present?
  - ?

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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**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 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.
Dry ARMD DDx

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx

- Macroaneurysms
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

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<tr>
<td>EOG abnormal?</td>
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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 lesion is it associated? Vitelliform exudative macular detachment (VEMD) occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.
- 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.
**Vitelliform Exudative Macular Detachment (VEMD)**

- **Definition:** An exudative detachment of the macula with yellow subretinal fluid.
- **Association:** Occurs in eyes with extensive cuticular drusen.
- **Comparison with Best Disease:**
  - Life-stage of onset: Childhood vs. Adulthood
  - Cuticular drusen present: No vs. Yes
  - EOG abnormal: Yes vs. No

**Are VEMD and Best dz related?**
No, but their appearance can be very similar.
**What does EOG stand for?**

Electro-oculogram

In a nutshell, what does it 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)

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**

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

CSR

RPE change after CSR

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.

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.

**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 it measure?

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Again in a nutshell, how does it work?

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What does EOG stand for?
Electro-oculogram

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

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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**Life-stage of onset?**
Childhood, Adulthood

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No, Yes

**EOG abnormal?**
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Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Cuticular drusen

Macular pucker

Laser thermal

Wet ARMD DDx

Vitelliform exudative macular detachment

Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy

CSR

RPE change after CSR

Small choroidal melanoma

Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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Childhood

Adult

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Non-Best pts

EOG
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**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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**Best dz VEMD**

- Life-stage of onset?
  - Childhood
  - Adulthood
- Cuticular drusen present?
  - No
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  - Yes
  - No

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Life-stage of onset? Childhood Adulthood

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Cuticular drusen can mimic dry ARMD.
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
- Macroaneurysms

Wet ARMD DDx

- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
- Central serous chorioretinopathy
- RPE er CSR
- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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**.
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
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

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

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

**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by type of PED RPE detachments
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

_In a nutshell, what is PCV?_
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments
Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy
Cuticular drusen

Wet ARMD DDx

Macroneurysms
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy

In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are isolated vs recurrent and unifocal vs multifocal.
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

In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal
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Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

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

In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type MNV
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Dry ARMD DDx
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In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A disease of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV
PCV. Multiple areas of subretinal hemorrhage are visible. They are surrounded by areas of yellow subretinal material which likely represents old hemorrhage. There is an acute subretinal hemorrhage OD.

PCV

This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.
**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**

A disease of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

**What does MNV stand for in this context?**

'Macular neovascularization.' The Academy is phasing it in as a replacement for choroidal neovascularization (CNV) in the context of wet ARMD and similar conditions, including PCV.
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:
- Macroneurysms
- Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
- Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
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What’s wrong with the term CNV when describing conditions such as wet ARMD?
This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials

Dry ARMD DDx
- Pattern dystrophy
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Wet ARMD DDx
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We’ll address this shortly
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**Dry ARMD DDx**
- Pattern dystrophy
- Cuticular drusen

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

In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by **serosanguinous RPE detachments** that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

Where does this fluid and blood come from?
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
- Macroleaneurysms
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In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

Where does this fluid and blood come from?
It's all in the name. The choroidal vasculature contains polyp-shaped terminal dilatations that leach serum and/or heme—hence, polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy.
PCV angiography. Note the characteristic lesion: a choroidal vascular network of vessels ending in aneurysmal, polyp-like bulges.

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Pattern dystrophy
Macroaneurysms
Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy
Central serous chorioretinopathy

In a nutshell, what is PCV?
A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV

Is there a gender and/or racial predilection?

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**Dry ARMD DDx**

- Pattern dystrophy
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**Wet ARMD DDx**

- Macroaneurysms
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**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**

A diagnosis of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

**Is there a gender and/or racial predilection?**

Tough question. The original cohort was largely women of Asian and African-American heritage, and there’s probably a legit skew in those directions.
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What is the typical age cohort—children, young adult, middle-aged, or elderly?
Middle-aged to ‘young elderly’ (EyeWiki gives a range of 50 to 65)

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%!
If you have an East Asian pt who’s diagnosed with wet ARMD, strongly consider whether they might have PCV instead.
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- Cuticular drusen

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

**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**

A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

**Is there a gender and/or racial predilection?**

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**Dry ARMD DDx**

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Now let’s return to why the Academy is phasing out the term CNV(M) in favor of MNV

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- Small choroidal melanoma
- Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

**Three types of neovascular membranes occur in ARMD and related conditions such as PCV. One, apparently, is called ‘Type 1.’ What are the other two called?**

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**From where (ie, which vascular bed) does each originate?**

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Now we can see why the terms CNV and CNVM don’t work—the presence of Type 3 nets. The terms ‘choroidal neovascular membrane’ and/or ‘choroidal neovascularization’ make no sense when you’re talking about a process that originates in the retinal circulation!

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In this regard: By what other name are Type 3 nets known?
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What does ICG stand for in this context?

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Under what circumstance is ICG angiography preferred over FA?

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How is it treated?
Anti-VEGF agents are effective, especially in conjunction with photodynamic therapy (PDT).

What does ICG stand for in this context?
Indocyanine green

Under what circumstance is ICG angiography preferred over FA?
When one is primarily concerned with visualizing the choroidal circulation.
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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- Central serous chorioretinopathy
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**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**

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Wet ARMD DDx

Macroaneurysms

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**Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy**

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What does OCTA stand for in this context?

Ocular coherence tomography angiography

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- A string of pearls
PCV. FA/ICG demonstrating a branching vascular network with polypoidal lesions arranged in a “string of pearls” pattern.

This is the combined DDx for both dry and wet ARMD—divide it into the respective differentials.
When you hear ‘string of pearls,’ four conditions should come to mind. One is PCV; what are the other three?

--PCV

--?

--?

--?

(Hint forthcoming)

**Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy**

In a nutshell, what is PCV?

How is PCV diagnosed?

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-- PCV
-- ?
-- ?
-- ?

For these, ‘string of pearls’ refers to a finding in the **vitreous**.

---

**In a nutshell, what is PCV?**

Central serous chorioretinopathy

**How is PCV diagnosed?**

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**Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV)**

- **In a nutshell, what is PCV?**
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  *Circling back to ICG imaging in PCV… The appearance of the lit-up polypoid structures is classically described as resembling what?*

  - *string of pearls*

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**When you hear ‘string of pearls,’ four conditions should come to mind.**
**One is PCV; what are the other three?**

- PCV
- PVRL
- *Candida* endophthalmitis
- Sarcoid uveitis

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**What does PVRL stand for in this context?**
Primary vitreoretinal lymphoma.

**What type of lymphoma is most common in PVRL?**
Virtually all PVRLs are non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphomas.

**Who is the typical PVRL pt?**
An adult in their 50s-60s.

**What systemic status increases the risk of developing PVRL?**
Being immunocompromised.

**What eye complaint(s) do these pts present with?**
Decreased vision and/or floaters.

**In addition to visual complaints, what other signs/symptoms may clue the astute clinician to the possibility of PVRL?**
Those due to CNS involvement (eg, confusion, weakness, memory loss).
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**DDx**

PVRL

---

Chief complaints:

- Decreased vision
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Symptoms:

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Wet ARMD DDx

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For more on PVRL, see slide-set U26
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The Uveitis book breaks endophthalmitis into three broad categories of etiology—what are they?

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RPE change after CSC
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Vitreous “string of pearls” in endogenous *Candida* endophthalmitis
When you hear ‘string of pearls,’ four conditions should come to mind. One is PCV; what are the others?

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Wet ARMD DDx

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In a nutshell, what is PCV?
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Pattern dystrophy
Macroaneurysms
Cuticular drusen
Vitelliform exudative macular detachment
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Central serous chorioretinopathy
RPE change after CSC
Small choroidal melanoma
Hydroxychloroquine toxicity

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Generally speaking, who is at risk for Candida endophthalmitis?
Hospitalized, debilitated individuals. Classic story: Pt s/p GI surgery who is NPO and receiving TPN.

Is HIV/AIDS a risk factor for Candida endophthalmitis?
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How does Candida endophthalmitis present?
Like other fungal entities, it starts with choroidal lesions that are bilateral, multiple, white and small. Pts may c/o decreased VA if one of the lesions involves the macula.

Can the anterior segment be involved?
Yes. And if it is, the pain is usually mild vs severe.
**Pattern dystrophy**

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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**

---

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

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In a nutshell, what is PCV?

A dz of the choroidal vasculature characterized by serosanguinous RPE detachments that are recurrent and multifocal and related to Type 1 MNV.

Is there a gender and/or racial predilection?

Tough question. The original cohort was largely women of Asian and African-American heritage, and there's probably a legit skew in those directions. That said, for sure both men and other races get it as well.

What is the typical age cohort—children, young adult, middle-aged, or elderly?

Middle-aged to ‘young elderly’ (EyeWiki gives a range of 50 to 65)

How is PCV diagnosed?

Because of its ability to image the choroidal circulation, ICG angiography is probably the most useful test in making the dx ( FA and OCTA can be contributory as well)

How is it treated?

Anti-VEGF agents are effective, especially in conjunction with photodynamic therapy (PDT)

Circling back to ICG imaging in PCV…The appearance of the lit-up polypoid structures is classically described as resembling what?

A string of pearls

When you hear ‘string of pearls,’ four conditions should come to mind. One is PCV; what are the other three?

--PVRL
--Candida endophthalmitis
--Sarcoid uveitis

The Uveitis book breaks endophthalmitis into three broad categories of etiology—what are they?

--Traumatic
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Candida endophthalmitis: Pre- and post-tx
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For more on Candida endophthalmitis, see slide-set U23

Candida endophthalmitis: Pre- and post-tx
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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
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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?
A male between the ages of 35 and 55 who has a so-called Type A personality

What is the preferred treatment?
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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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CSC: RPE change
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Dry ARMD DDx

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RPE change after CSC

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Dry ARMD DDx

Pattern dystrophy

Ages 65 and up

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!

Wet ARMD DDx

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In the context of CSC, what are descending tracts?
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Long, narrow areas of RPE change extending inferiorly from the areas of SRF
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CSC: Descending tracts
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*By what other name is this phenomenon known?*
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‘Guttering’