

TABLE 2 INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA DISEASE SEVERITY SCALE

Proposed Disease Severity Level	Findings Observable upon Dilated Ophthalmoscopy
Diabetic macular edema apparently absent	No apparent retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole
Diabetic macular edema apparently present	Some apparent retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole
If diabetic macular edema is present, it can be categorized as follows:	
Proposed Disease Severity Level	Findings Observable upon Dilated Ophthalmoscopy*
Diabetic macular edema present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mild diabetic macular edema: some retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole but distant from the center of the macula• Moderate diabetic macular edema: retinal thickening or hard exudates approaching the center of the macula but not involving the center• Severe diabetic macular edema: retinal thickening or hard exudates involving the center of the macula

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* Hard exudates are a sign of current or previous macular edema. Diabetic macular edema is defined as retinal thickening; this requires a three-dimensional assessment that is best performed by dilated examination using slit-lamp biomicroscopy and/or stereoscopic fundus photography. Optical coherence tomography may supplement the fundus evaluation for determining the presence of diabetic macular edema.