



## What is Macular Degeneration?

The macula is the central part of the retina, the light sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. The retina processes all visual images. It is responsible for your ability to read, recognise faces, drive and see colours clearly. You are reading this using your macula. MD causes progressive macular damage resulting in loss of central vision but the peripheral vision is not affected.

There are two types of MD. The Dry form results in a gradual loss of central vision and can't be treated. The Wet form is characterised by a sudden loss of vision and is caused by abnormal blood vessels growing into the retina. Immediate medical treatment is essential if symptoms occur.

## Treatment Revolution

Anti-VEGF therapies were introduced in 2005 and have made a significant impact on the treatment of MD.

“Anti-VEGFs for wet MD are one of the greatest advances in medicine in the past decade”

-Professor Gary Brown

Director Wills Eye Institute Retina Service, Co-director of the Centre for Value-Based Medicine, Philadelphia, USA

### Introduction of Anti-VEGF treatments in New Zealand

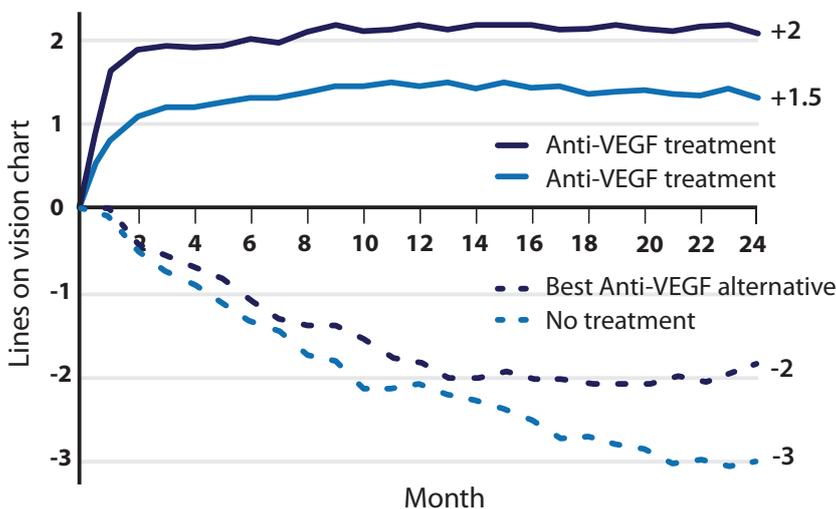


Initial treatments available with limited success

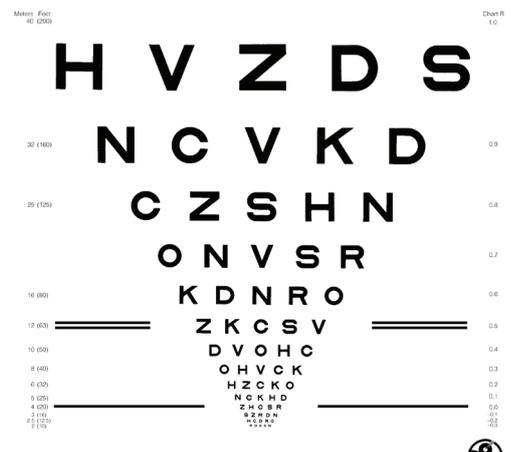
Further advances in Anti-VEGF treatments

## Treatment Results

Anti-VEGF therapies have proven to be highly effective in treating wet form MD since their introduction in 2005.



Anti-VEGF Treatment Results



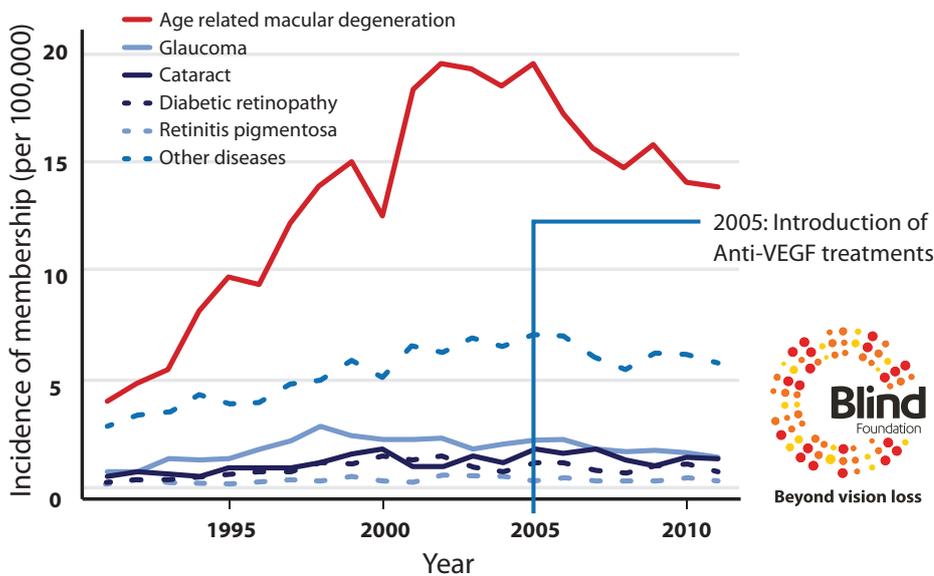
Vision Chart



## Treatment Impact

Anti-VEGF therapies have had a profound impact in New Zealand and around the world.

**New Zealand: Incidence of Blind Foundation membership per 100,000 from 1995-2010**



**Israel: 51%**

drop in incidence of new blindness.



**Scotland: 59%**

drop in incidence rate of blindness due to wet AMD.



**Denmark: 50%**

drop in incidence of AMD related blindness in >50s.



## Anti-VEGF therapy has led to dramatic advances in the treatment of Macular Degeneration

**95%** of patients achieved stable vision (lost <3 lines of vision).

**40%** of patients retained driving vision.

**30%** gained at least 3 lines of vision (EDTRS Chart).

## Time Lost is Vision Lost

New Zealanders awareness and understanding of MD is behind that of our Australian neighbours.

**New Zealand: 67%**

of people aged 50 or over have ever heard of Macular Degeneration.

**New Zealand: 48%**

of people aged 50 or over understand that Macular Degeneration is an eye disorder.

**Australia: 92%**

of people aged 50 or over have ever heard of Macular Degeneration.

**Australia: 88%**

of people aged 50 or over understand that Macular Degeneration is an eye disorder.

**References:** Bloch SB et al. Incidence of legal blindness from age-related macular degeneration in Denmark: year 2000 to 2010. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2012;153:209-213.  
 Skaat A et al. Time trends in the incidence and causes of blindness in Israel. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2012;153:214-221.  
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