

Patients with non-neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) are encouraged to use the Amsler grid test for self-assessment to facilitate early diagnosis. The test is widely recommended, suggesting a belief that it signals worsening AMD, warranting its use in home monitoring.

Although the Amsler grid is easy and inexpensive to use for detection of metamorphopsia, a recent review suggests its diagnostic accuracy to diagnose neovascular AMD may be at levels typically not recommended for monitoring, with sensitivity and specificity to detect neovascular AMD of 71% (95% CI, 60%-80%) and 63% (95% CI, 49%-51%), respectively. Coupling this lower sensitivity with only moderate specificity to identify neovascular AMD in a population at risk, these findings suggest that such patients typically should be encouraged to undergo ophthalmic examination regularly, regardless of any results of Amsler grid self-assessment.