

GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY (GA): Patient Identification and Referral Guide

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Once vision is impacted by GA, change is irreversible. Early identification and ongoing monitoring may help to minimize the impact of the disease.^{1,2}

Considerations for Identifying and Selecting Patients for Referral



Retinal Imaging: Plays a Critical Role in Early GA Diagnosis

OCT is helpful in identifying hallmark biomarkers of GA³

- What to look for⁴:
 - Zone(s) of attenuation or disruption of the RPE
 - Presence of choroidal hypertransmission
 - Evidence of overlying photoreceptor degeneration

FAF is helpful for assessing lesion size and monitoring disease progression^{3,5}

- What to look for^{6,7}:
 - Areas of hypoautofluorescence with sharply demarcated borders
 - Patterns of hyperautofluorescence surrounding atrophic lesions such as focal, patchy, banded, diffuse, or diffuse-trickling

CFP is useful in establishing a baseline of the disease and monitoring progression³

- What to look for^{5,6,8}:
 - Drusen as well as depigmentation and hyperpigmentation of areas of the fundus
 - Hypopigmented GA lesion with sharply demarcated areas with increased choroidal vessel visibility



Functional Visual Assessments

Visual acuity often does not provide a complete assessment of visual function. A decline in visual function can lead to a decline in quality of life.^{5,9-11} It's important to inquire about:

- Trouble performing daily activities (reading, driving, hobbies, etc.)^{9,11,12}
- Difficulty with low-light vision, night vision, or driving in low-light conditions^{6,13}
- Decreased contrast sensitivity¹³
- Decreased reading speed¹³



Lesion Characteristics Associated With Faster Progression Rates

GA is a heterogenous disease, and factors of its presentation may be associated with a faster progression rate.⁶ These factors can include:

- Non-foveal lesions⁶
- Multifocal lesions⁶
- Bilateral disease¹⁴

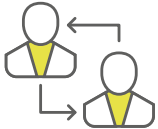
Patient Discussion and Education



Educate your patients on what they may expect throughout their GA journey.

- Explain the irreversible impact GA may have on vision
- Discuss the goals of management of the disease
- Emphasize the importance of regular monitoring and follow-up appointments

Partnering With Your Eye Care Colleagues



Early alignment with your eye care colleagues can help ensure optimal outcomes for your patients.²

Discuss with your retinal specialist partner:

- Which patients to refer and when in their course of disease to take action
- The appropriate information to share, such as previous imaging scans, functional vision changes, patient history, and proper coding based on disease presentation
- How you can collaborate to optimize patient management

Early detection of GA and timely referral may help to minimize the impact on vision²



Scan the QR code to learn more

CFP=color fundus photography; FAF=fundus autofluorescence; OCT=optical coherence tomography; RPE=retinal pigment epithelium.

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