

What is the difference between Age Related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Myopic Macular Degeneration (MMD)?

First, the similarities:

1. Both affect the macula.
2. Both have a “wet” and “dry” type.
3. In the wet type, both develop abnormal new blood vessels growing under the retina [choroidal neovascularization with a choroidal neovascular membrane (CNVM)]
4. Both respond well to intravitreal injections of anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF drugs).

Now, the differences:

1. AMD is age-related and primarily a condition seen in people over age 50.
2. MMD is an eye condition seen in people with high myopia (very near sighted) at any age.
3. In MMD, the dry type is characterized by “laquer cracks” in the macula.
4. In AMD, the dry type is characterized by drusen in the Retina Pigment Epithelium (RPE), which is the lining under the retina.
5. Anti-VEGF agents are FDA approved for wet AMD. Anti-VEGF agents are **not FDA approved for wet MMD** although, they have been found to be efficacious in this condition.¹

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¹ Journal VitreoRetinal Diseases, March 22, 2017, Moroz et al.