### GEOGRAPHIC ATROPHY: Patient Identification and Clinical Investigations



Once vision is impacted by geographic atrophy (GA), change is irreversible. Early identification and ongoing monitoring may help to minimise the impact of the disease.<sup>1,2</sup>

### **Clinical Investigations in GA**



### Retinal Imaging to Identify GA

#### Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) is helpful in identifying biomarkers of GA<sup>3</sup>

- OCT signs associated with GA include<sup>4</sup>:
  - Zone(s) of attenuation or disruption of the retinal pigment epithelium
  - Presence of choroidal hypertransmission
  - Evidence of overlying photoreceptor degeneration

## Fundus Autofluorescence (FAF) may be used to assess lesion size and monitor disease progression<sup>3,5</sup>

- FAF signs associated with GA include<sup>6,7</sup>:
  - Areas of hypoautofluorescence with sharply demarcated borders
  - Patterns of hyperautofluorescence surrounding atrophic lesions such as focal, patchy, banded, diffuse, or diffuse-trickling

## Colour Fundus Photography (CFP) may be used to establish a baseline of the disease and monitor progression<sup>3</sup>

- CFP signs associated with GA include<sup>5,6,8</sup>:
  - Drusen, as well as depigmentation and hyperpigmentation of areas of the fundus
  - Hypopigmented GA lesions with sharply demarcated areas and increased choroidal vessel visibility



### **Functional Visual Assessments**

Visual acuity alone might not provide a complete assessment of a patient's visual function. A decline in visual function can lead to a decline in quality of life.<sup>5,9-11</sup> Consider asking your patient about:

- Difficulty in performing daily activities (reading, driving, hobbies, etc.)<sup>9,11,12</sup>
- Difficulty with low-light vision, night vision, or driving in low-light conditions<sup>6,13</sup>
- Decreased contrast sensitivity<sup>13</sup>
- Decreased reading speed<sup>13</sup>



**Lesion Characteristics That May Be Associated With Faster Progression** GA is a heterogeneous disease, and factors of its presentation may be associated with a faster progression rate.<sup>6</sup> These factors can include:

- Non-foveal lesions<sup>6</sup>
- Multifocal lesions<sup>6</sup>
- Bilateral disease<sup>14</sup>





# Early detection of geographic atrophy may help to minimise the impact on vision<sup>2</sup>



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