Patients suffering from age-related macular degeneration can still lead a satisfying life if they seek help to manage the disease.

Chen Hwee Wuen

Two decades ago, when Mr Fong was at work at a construction site, he suddenly noticed his right eye vision was hindered. Despite repeated visits to ophthalmologists, his vision remained poor.

The 60-year-old panicked and went to see an eye specialist. He was told that he had bilateral central visual impairment – this is when regular AMD may not experience any symptoms – this is when regular AMD may not experience any symptoms.

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While there is no cure for AMD, there are three stages of AMD. The current gold standard treatment for neovascular AMD is frequent injections of anti-VEGF drugs that block new blood vessels and stents in the eye.

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There are three stages of AMD. Patients with early or intermediate AMD may experience some symptoms – this is when regular eye examinations can help to detect the disease.

Symptoms of age-related macular degeneration, when present, can vary from distortion or waviness of images to painless blurring to a darkening of central vision, all of which complicate one’s ability to read, write or recognise faces, especially when they are far away. These symptoms may progress gradually over several months.

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