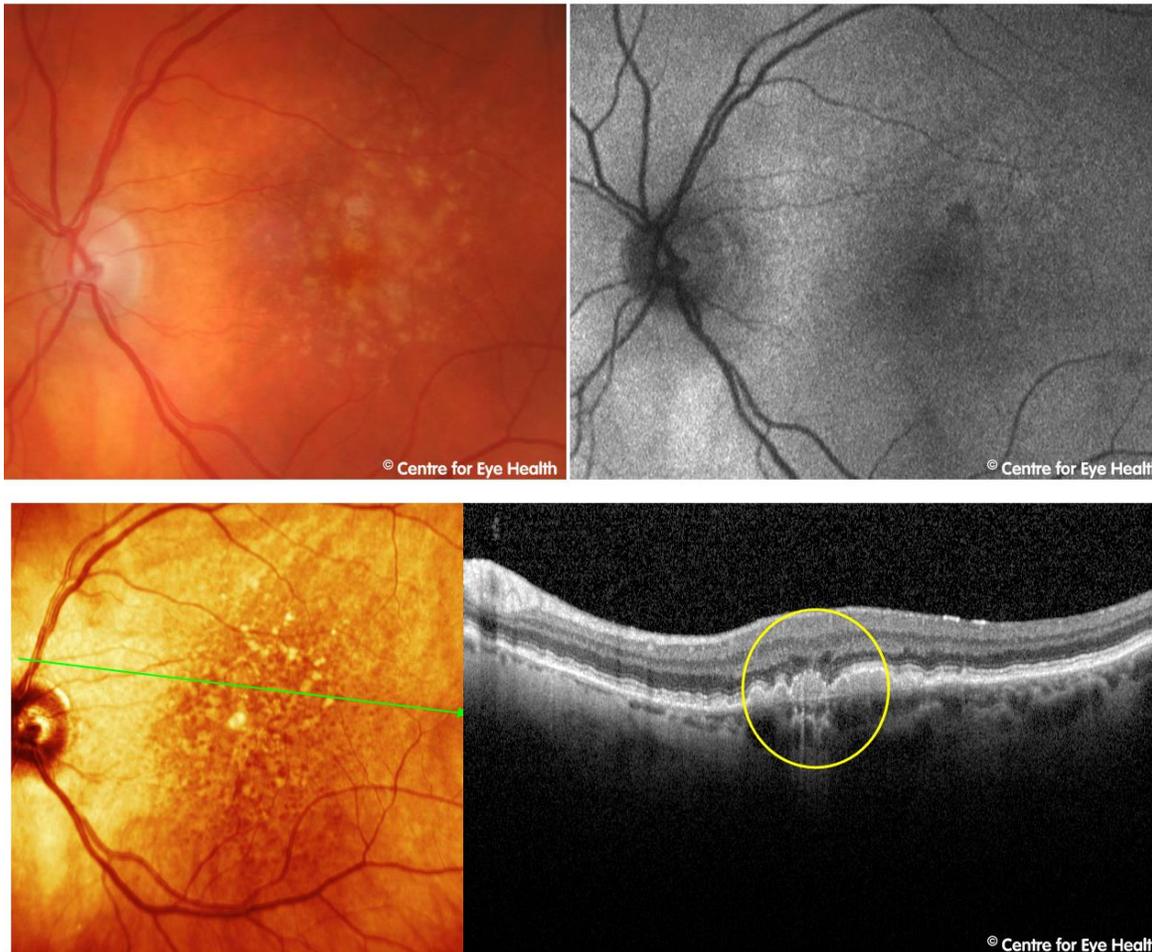




CFEH Facebook Case #105

An 86 year old Caucasian female with AMD presented for a macular assessment. How would you describe the changes circled on the OCT image below and what is the significance of this finding?



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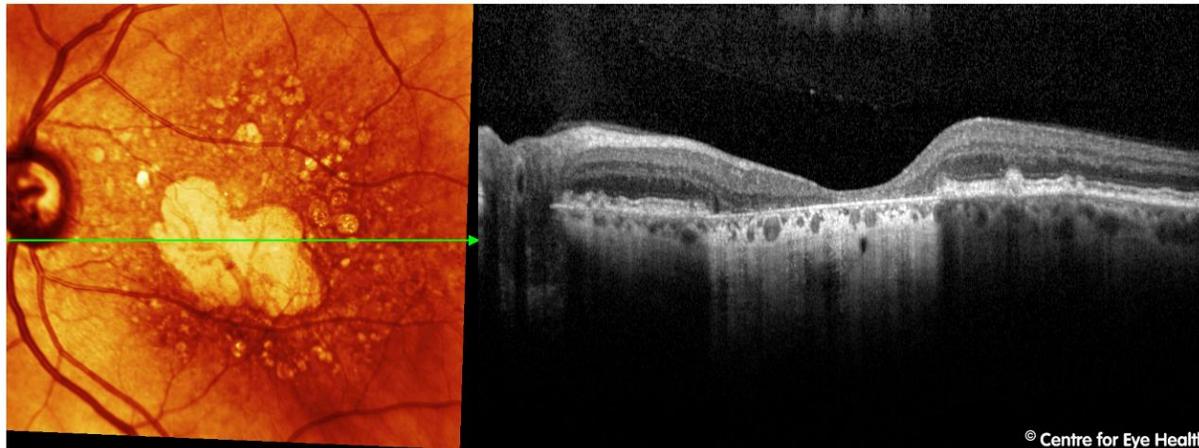


Optometry
NEW SOUTH WALES
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ANSWER

This patient has nascent geographic atrophy. Nascent geographic atrophy is a term used to describe the 'subsidence' of the outer plexiform layer and inner nuclear layer without incomplete loss of the RPE and definite loss of photoreceptors. It can be found in an estimated 7% of eyes with intermediate AMD. Recently agreed nomenclature developed by the CAM (classification of macular atrophy) group identifies nascent geographic atrophy as a subset of iRORA (incomplete RPE and outer retinal atrophy), in AMD eyes without choroidal neovascularisation.

In contrast, an OCT of a patient with geographic atrophy is below. It shows an absence of the RPE, inner segment ellipsoid zone, external limiting membrane and outer nuclear layer. Using the CAM group nomenclature, geographic atrophy is defined as a subset of cRORA (complete RPE and outer retinal atrophy).



The presence of nascent geographic atrophy is a prognostic sign seen in intermediate AMD that may herald imminent progression to geographic atrophy. A study by Wu et al. (2014) showed that on average, nascent geographic atrophy precedes the development of geographic atrophy by 11 months.

For detailed information of this and other recently identified prognostic biomarkers for AMD, please refer to Angelica Ly's open access review paper, available [here](#).