

# The Cost-effectiveness of Vitamin Therapy for Age Related Macular Degeneration

This 2007 study simulated the incidence and natural history of age-related macular degeneration with and without the use of prophylactic antioxidant vitamin plus zinc supplements to prevent advanced vision threatening disease. The study found that the universal use of vitamin therapy would reduce the percentage of patients with early AMD who ever developed visual impairment in the better-seeing eye to 5.6% compared to 7.0% without such therapy. Compared to no therapy, vitamin therapy cost approximately \$21,000 per Quality adjusted life (QALY) gained, in 2003 dollars, a cost that was favorable compared to other ocular health interventions.

## Incremental Cost-Effectiveness of Vitamin Therapy to Prevent Advanced AMD as Compared to No Therapy

	Cost			Years Visual Impairment and Blindness	Quality-Adjusted Life Years (QALYs)	Incremental Cost-Effectiveness Ratio (Total Cost/QALY), \$
	AMD Costs	Nursing Home Costs	Total			
Conventional Treatment	583.41	265.55	848.96	0.26049	15.6221	
Vitamin Therapy for All Diagnosed	720.87	216.51	937.38	0.22501	15.6263	
Incremental	137.46	40.94-	88.42	-.0355	0.004	21,387

Rein DB, Saaddine JB, Wittenborn JS, et al. Cost-effectiveness of vitamin therapy for age-related macular degeneration. Ophthalmology. Jul 2007;114(7):1319-1326.