Appendix 1. Definition of cases with age-related macular degeneration and controls included in this study

First Author (Year)	Eye examination and definition of AMD	Type of cases	Type of Controls
Qu (2011)	Comprehensive ophthalmologic examination, including slit-lamp biomicroscopy, funduscopy, contact lens biomicroscopic examination of the retina, fluorescein and indocyanine green fundus angiography, and OCT.	Exudative AMD.	Age, gender, and ethnicity matched without clinical evidence of AMD and without known family history of AMD.
Almeida (2011)	Complete clinical ophthalmic examination, including FA and OCT. Definition of AMD were based on the Clinical Age-Related Maculopathy Staging system.	Nonexudative and exudative AMD. Nonexudative AMD: Grade 2 (approximately ≥10 small drusen or <15 intermediate drusen, or pigment abnormalities associated with ARM), Grade 3 (approximately ≥15 intermediate drusen or any large drusen), and Grade 4 (GA with involvement of the macular center, or noncentral geographic atrophy ≥ 350 μm in size). Exudative AMD: Grade 5 (exudative AMD, including nondrusenoid pigment epithelial detachments, serous or hemorrhagic retinal detachments, CNVM with subretinal or sub-RPE hemorrhages or fibrosis, or scars consistent with treatment of AMD). Patients with >10 small drusen or <15 intermediate drusen without RPE changes were excluded.	Age and gender matched without AMD.
Immonen (2010)	Visual acuity assessment, biomicroscopy of the anterior and posterior parts of the	Exudative AMD	Age matched without signs of AMD (absence of drusen

First Author (Year)	Eye examination and definition of AMD	Type of cases	Type of Controls
	eye, and FA. Definition of AMD were based on the records and the angiograms.		of more than 63 μm, major pigmentary abnormalities, eccentric geographic atrophy, or late AMD characteristics) by fundus photography.
Galan (2010)	Detailed ophthalmic examination, including dilated fundus examination, fundus photographs, and FA. In selected cases, indocyanine green angiography was performed. Fundus findings in each eye were classified based on a standardized set of diagnostic criteria established by the International ARM Epidemiologic Study.	Neovascular AMD and nonneovascular (small drusen, large drusen, and GA) AMD.	Gender and ethnicity matched without detectable drusen by dilated fundus examination and fundus photography.
Janik-Papis (2009)	Ophthalmic examination, including best-corrected visual acuity, intraocular pressure, slit lamp examination, fundus examination. Diagnosis of AMD was confirmed by OCT and, in some cases, by FA and indocyanin green angiography.	Atrophic and neovascular AMD.	Age and gender matched without AMD.
Francis (2009)	Ophthalmological evaluation and photographical document. Definition of AMD were based on the Age-Related Eye Disease study (AREDS) categories.	Atrophic and neovascular AMD: AREDS category 4 (central GA or neovascular AMD in one eye or visual loss due to AMD regardless of lesion type).	Without AMD (no drusen larger than 63 μm in diameter).
Lin (2008)	Standard examination protocol including comprehensive medical and ophthalmic	Atrophic and neovascular AMD.	Age and gender matched without any type of drusen,

First Author (Year)	Eye examination and definition of AMD	Type of cases	Type of Controls
	history review, visual acuity, intraocular pressure measurement, slit-lamp biomicroscopy, dilated fundus photographs, and FA. The diagnosis of AMD was established on the basis of clinical examination, fundus photography, and FA. Fundus findings in each eye were classified based on a standardized set of diagnostic criteria established by the International ARM Epidemiologic Study.		geographic atrophy, CNV, or other retinal disorder in either eye revealed by fundus photographs and FA, without visual impairment and family history of AMD.
Richardson (2007)	Clinical examination	Early (the presence of soft drusen >125 μm, with or without regions of hyperpigmentation), GA, and neovascular AMD	Ethnicity and residence matched without AMD
Churchill (2006)	Visual acuity testing, anterior segment, and fundus examination.	AMD, secondary to CNVMs demonstrated by fundus FA.	Age matched healthy

OCT optical coherence tomography; *FA* fluorescein angiography; *ARM* age-related maculopathy; *GA* geographic atrophy; *CNVM* choroidal neovascular membrane