

Appendix 1. General characteristics of the included studies.

Published year	author	ethnicity	Average age (years old)		^a Sex ratio (M/F)		Total		Characteristics of Case
			case	control	case	control	case	control	
2005a	^b Hageman et al. [19]	Caucasian	79.5±7.8	78.4±7.4	^d NA	NA	228	68	AMD with geographic atrophy (GA) or
2005b	^c Hageman et al. [19]	Caucasian	71.32±8.9	68.84±8.6	NA	NA	546	261	choroidal neovascularization (CNV)
2006	Chen et al. [20]	Asian	75.5±7.5	73.5±6.5	88/75	114/130	163	244	Exudative AMD
2006	Fuse et al. [21]	Asian	73.3±8.2	68.6±7.4	59/21	101/91	80	192	AMD with dry/geographic atrophy
2007	Mori et al. [22]	Asian	71.4±8.3	67.1±11.1	143/45	73/66	188	139	AMD with group 3-5 (AREDS criteria)
2008	Kim et al. [23]	Asian	68.25±8.8	66.83±7.8	47/67	94/93	114	187	Exudative AMD
2008	Lee et al. [24]	Asian	63.8±7.6	67.2±4.6	46/26	40/53	72	93	Polypoidal choroidal vasculopathy (PCV)
2008	Xing et al. [25]	Caucasian	74.9±8.0	65.5±8.9	132/224	1048/1333	356	2381	Late-stage AMD (CNV and GA) and early-stage AMD
2009	Bergeron et al. [26]	Caucasian	^e 64.8	66.5	190/231	101/114	421	215	AMD with group 3-5 (AREDS criteria)
2009	Goto et al. [27]	Asian	74.56±8.8 (AMD) 72.71±8.3 (PCV)	72.22±8.5	73/27 (AMD) 81/19 (PCV)	86/104	200	190	Typical wet-type AMD and PCV
2010	Hayashi et al. [28]	Asian	77.7±8.4 (tAMD) 75.1±8.5 (PCV) 83.8±7.0 (RAP)	51.2±16.3	293/115 (tAMD) 381/137 (PCV) 19/17 (RAP)	722/629	962	1351	Typical AMD, PCV and retinal angiomatous proliferation (RAP)
2010	Hecker et al. [29]	Caucasian	78.4±7.5	70.6±7.0	42/83	72/77	125	149	Early AMD and primary GA
2010	Liu et al. [30]	Asian	65±7.3	63±7.8	107/131	101/119	222	235	Wet AMD and soft drusen
2010	Yang et al. [31]	Asian	65.8±3.5	64.1±3.2	45/64	76/74	109	150	Exudative AMD
2011	Tanaka et al. [32]	Asian	72.0±8.8	72.9±8.7	478/207	111/166	685	277	Neovascular AMD, PCV and RAP

^aSex ratio (M/F) means male/female; ^bHageman = 2005a in Iowa cohort; ^cHageman = 2005b in Columbia cohort; ^dNA means Not available; ^e64.8 means the standard deviation was not given.