

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

STARGARDT DISEASE

30,000
people affected
in the U.S.

WHAT IS STARGARDT DISEASE?

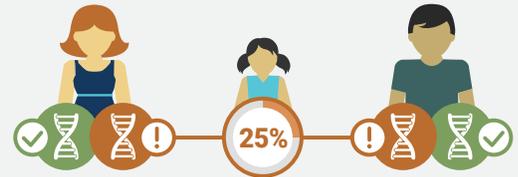
FACT: Stargardt disease is the most common form of inherited macular degeneration.

Often diagnosed in childhood or adolescence, Stargardt disease is an inherited form of macular degeneration causing central vision loss. The condition is sometimes referred to as juvenile or early onset macular degeneration.

The progressive vision loss associated with Stargardt disease is caused by the degeneration of photoreceptor cells in the central portion of the retina called the macula.

HOW IS STARGARDT DISEASE INHERITED?

Stargardt disease is inherited when both parents have one **mutated copy of the ABCA4 gene** and a normal copy.



The child has a **25% chance** of inheriting the two copies of ABCA4 (one from each parent) to cause the disease.

In a small percentage of cases, Stargardt disease is caused by **mutations in the gene ELOVL4**.



In these cases, the parent has the disease and has a **50% chance** of passing it on to each child.

The **retina** is the delicate light-sensing tissue lining the inside wall of the back of the eye.

The **macula**, which is rich in cone photoreceptors, is responsible for sharp central vision.

Photoreceptor cells in the retina convert light into electrical signals, which are sent to the brain.

Cones also provide vision in lighted settings and color perception.

The **retinal pigment epithelium (RPE)**, a layer of cells supporting photoreceptors, is also affected in people with Stargardt disease.

WHAT TO EXPECT WITH STARGARDT DISEASE:



A loss or change in central vision (progression variable).



Characteristic yellowish flecks in the retinal pigment epithelium.



Decreased ability to distinguish details and shape.



Some peripheral vision is usually maintained.

What someone with Stargardt disease may see.



The area of vision loss is called the **scotoma**.