



## INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL DIABETIC MACULAR EDEMA DISEASE SEVERITY SCALE

2 major levels, with subcategories for diabetic macular edema

Proposed Disease Severity Level	Findings Observable Upon Dilated Ophthalmoscopy
Diabetic Macular Edema Absent	No retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole
Diabetic Macular Edema Present	Some retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole

If diabetic macular edema is present, it can be categorized as follows:

Proposed Disease Severity Level	Findings Observable Upon Dilated Ophthalmoscopy *
Diabetic Macular Edema Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Mild Diabetic Macular Edema  Some retinal thickening or hard exudates in posterior pole but distant from the center of the macula
	<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate Diabetic Macular Edema  Retinal thickening or hard exudates approaching the center of the macula but not involving the center
	<input type="checkbox"/> Severe Diabetic Macular Edema  Retinal thickening or hard exudates involving the center of the macula

\* Hard exudates are a sign of current or previous macular edema. Diabetic macular edema is defined as retinal thickening and this requires a 3-dimensional assessment that is best performed by a dilated examination using slit-lamp biomicroscopy and/or stereo fundus photography. A more detailed table for the International Clinical DME Disease Severity Scale is available, with more explanation of the disease severity levels, definition of CSME, and management options. Please contact Flora Lum, M.D. at the AAO, 415 561-8500.