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(54) **DIAGNOSTIC METHODS FOR AGE RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION**

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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Diagnostic methods for identifying a test subject who has or is at risk of developing age-related macular degeneration (AMD) or an analogous disease associated with oxidation of DHA-containing lipids are provided. In one aspect, the methods comprise: assaying for the presence of elevated levels of 2-(ω -carboxyethyl) pyrrole (CEP) adducts in a bodily fluid which has been obtained from the test subject. In a preferred embodiment, such methods comprise providing an antibody that is immunospecific for CEP, contacting a bodily fluid from the subject with the anti-CEP antibody, and assaying for the formation of a complex between the antibody and an antigen in the sample. In another aspect, the methods comprise assaying for the presence of elevated levels of an antibody that binds to or is immunospecific for a CEP adduct in the bodily fluid of the test subject. The present invention also relates to CEP protein and peptide adducts, an antibody reactive with a CEP adduct and a diagnostic kit comprising such antibody.

3 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets