

The background is a solid dark red color. On the left side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent circles of varying shades of red, creating a layered, organic effect. Two horizontal dotted white lines are positioned above and below the main text, framing it.

# **Cystinosis and your body**

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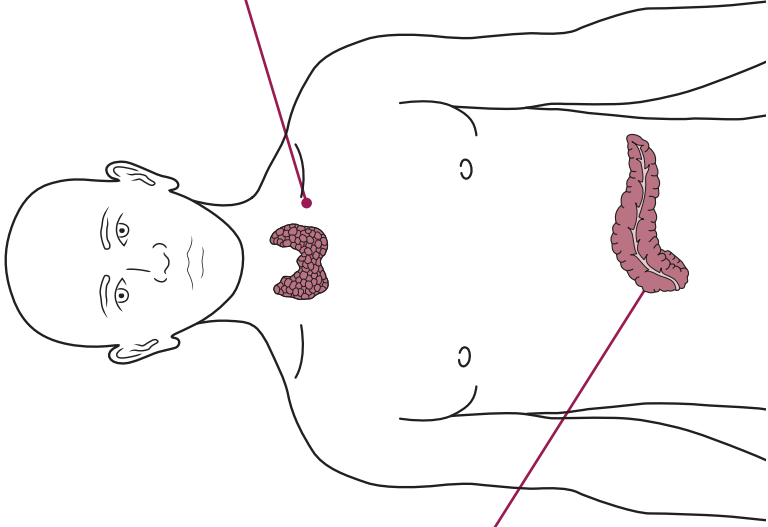
Cystinosis can potentially affect many parts of your body, not just your kidney. It is important that you are aware of potential complications so that treatment can be started as soon as possible.

### Diabetes

In later life patients with cystinosis are at an increased risk of having diabetes. Cystine crystals deposited in the pancreas can cause the body to slowly stop producing insulin. Eventually it will be necessary to start insulin replacement therapy.

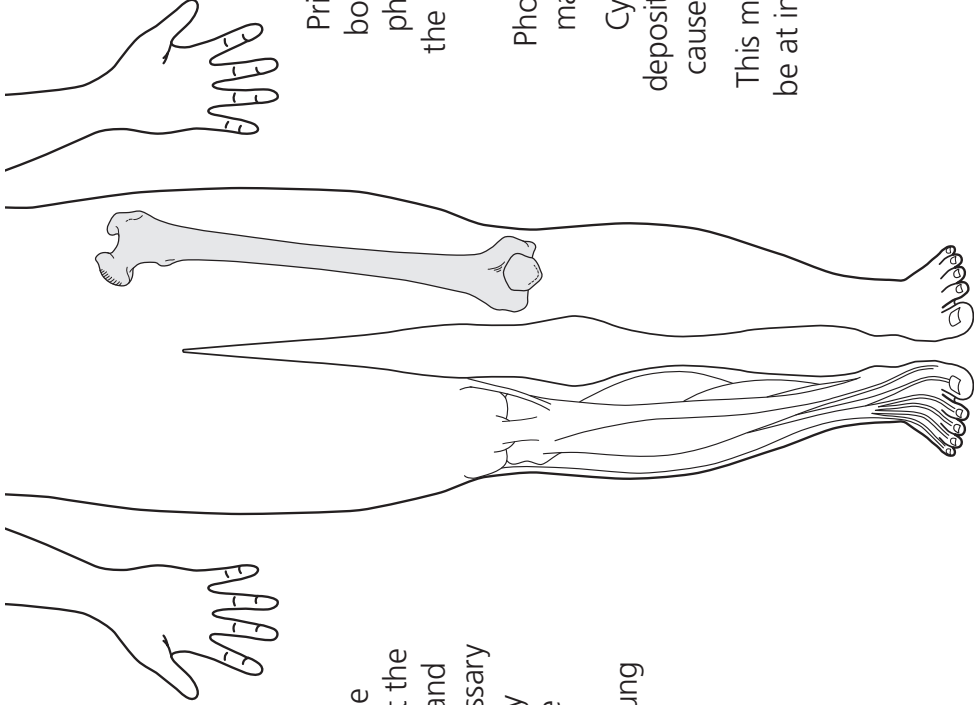
### Thyroid

The accumulation of cystine in the thyroid gland causes the thyroid gland to not function properly. This can be diagnosed through regularly blood checks and is easily treatable by taking a supplementary tablet called Levothyroxine.



## Muscles

Cystine crystals deposited in the muscles can lead to muscle weakness. This can also affect the muscles used for swallowing and breathing. It is therefore necessary to monitor your swallowing by seeing a speech and language therapist. Your chest muscles can be monitored by having lung function tests.



## Bones

Prior to having a transplant bones can be weakened by phosphate being wasted in the urine due to early kidney damage. Phosphates are important in maintaining healthy bones. Cystine crystals can also be deposited in the bones and can cause metabolic bone disease. This means that the bones may be at increased risk of fractures.