

The background is a solid green color. It features several white dotted horizontal lines. There are also several large, overlapping, semi-transparent white curved lines that sweep across the page from the top left towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and depth.

Cystinosis: Looking after your eyes

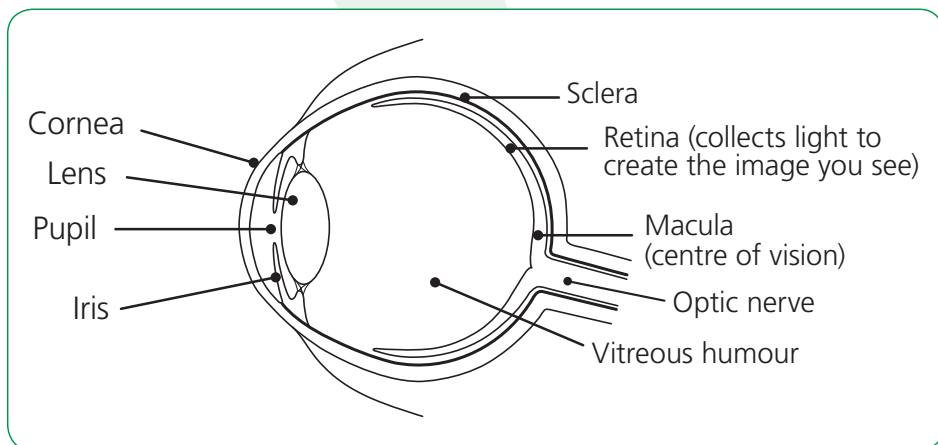
Cystinosis: Looking after your eyes

How does cystinosis affect my eyes?

Cystinosis causes cystine crystals to be deposited in the cornea of the eye. The cornea is the transparent front part of the eye that covers the iris and the pupil.

Cystine crystals in the cornea cause light to be reflected which can result in substantial discomfort to bright light (photophobia).

If left untreated excessive corneal crystals can give you a gritty feeling in your eye which may cause you to experience some pain. Untreated corneal crystals also affect your visual acuity which means your vision may appear less clear and less sharp.



What treatment is available?

Unfortunately oral cysteamine has no effect on corneal crystals. Therefore cysteamine eye drops need to be applied to dissolve the cystine crystals.

Cysteamine eye drops will relieve the discomfort from bright lights and start dissolving the crystals at any age.

Cysteamine eye drops should be applied regularly every day. Eye drops should be applied every couple of hours. Compliance can be difficult but cysteamine eye drops are currently the only way to

reverse corneal crystals and prevent any future damage to the eye.

Attending an optician about corneal crystals is not sufficient. You should be reviewed regularly by an ophthalmologist who recognises and understands cystinosis.