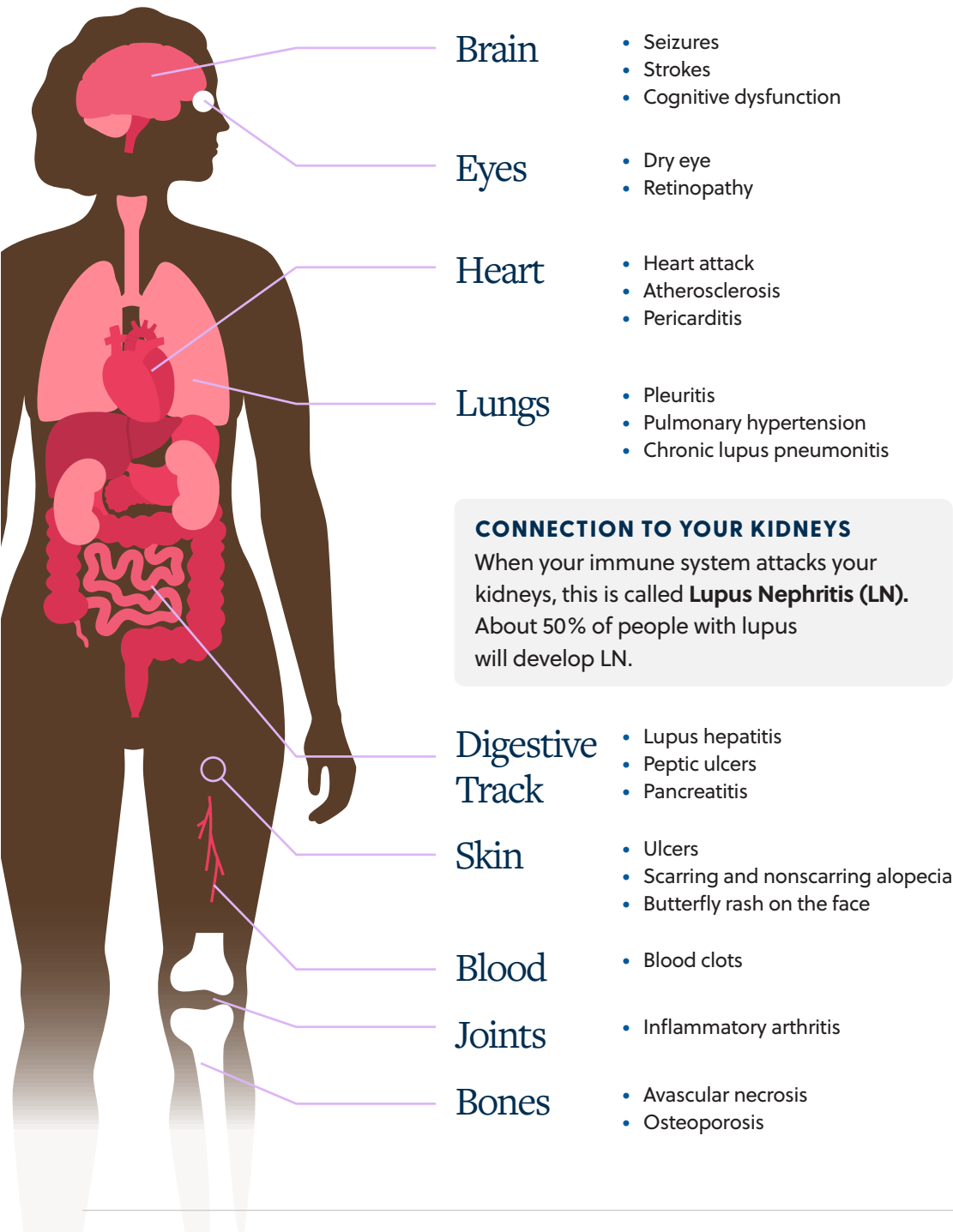


Organ damage and lupus.

Lupus is an autoimmune disease when your immune system (which normally protects you from infections) starts to attack your healthy tissues and organs. This can result in organ damage and affect many parts of your body. The graphic below highlights organs that may be affected by lupus.



CONNECTION TO YOUR KIDNEYS

When your immune system attacks your kidneys, this is called **Lupus Nephritis (LN)**. About 50% of people with lupus will develop LN.



Lupus can affect almost every system in the body, which means it can lead to a wide range of possible health issues. However, it's important to note that you won't experience all these conditions.

It's important to take all medicines as your doctor tells you to and make sure you have any recommended testing to manage your lupus.

Glossary

Alopecia: hair loss on your scalp and/or other parts of your body that is temporary or permanent

Atherosclerosis: buildup of fats and cholesterol in your artery walls which causes them to narrow and block blood flow

Avascular necrosis: tiny breaks in your bones due to bone death from a lack of blood supply

Blood clots: gel-like clumps of blood that form in your veins and can block blood flow

Cognitive dysfunction (brain fog): a group of symptoms including not being able to think clearly, having problems with remembering things, and becoming easily confused

Chronic lupus pneumonitis: inflammation of your lungs that develops over a long period of time

Inflammatory arthritis: inflammation in your joints that can cause swelling, tenderness, and stiffness

Lupus hepatitis (autoimmune hepatitis): inflammation of the liver

Lupus nephritis: damage to your kidneys because of your immune system

Osteoporosis: a disease that weakens your bones, causing them to become brittle and break easily

Pancreatitis: inflammation of your pancreas

Peptic ulcers: open sores inside of your stomach and small intestine

Pericarditis: swelling and irritation in the tissue surrounding your heart (the pericardium)

Pleuritis (pleurisy): inflammation of the thin tissues between your lungs and chest wall (pleura)

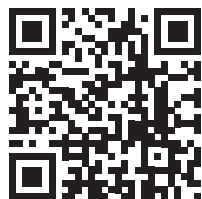
Pulmonary hypertension: high blood pressure occurring in the blood vessels carrying blood from your heart to your lungs (pulmonary arteries)

Retinopathy: disease of your retina

Seizure: an abnormal burst of electrical activity in your brain causing changes in your behavior, movements, and levels of consciousness

Skin ulcers: open skin sores

Stroke: damage to parts of your brain from blocked blood flow.



For more information about lupus nephritis, visit kidneyfund.org/lupus