

INTRODUCTION

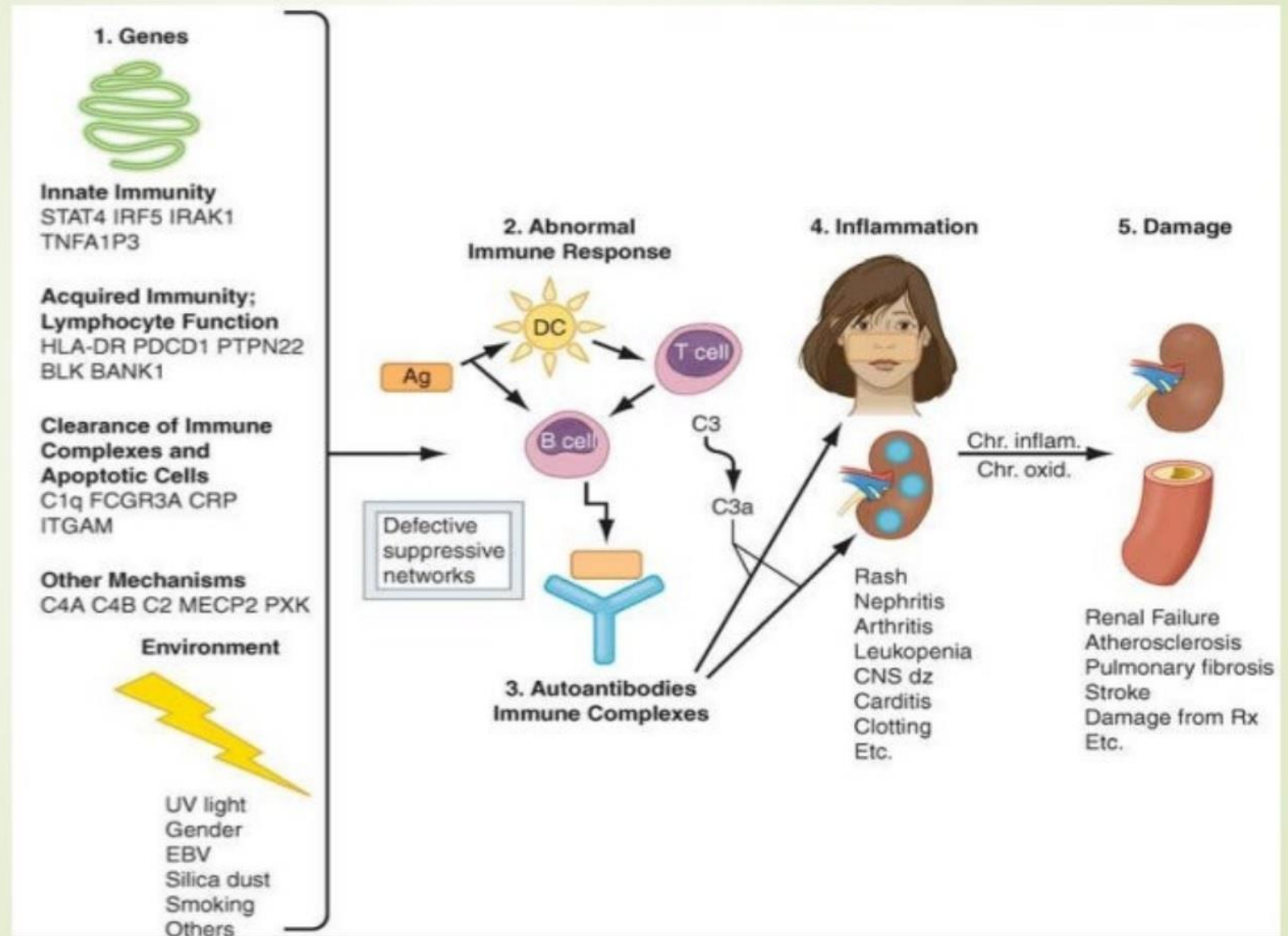
- Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease
- Ninety percent of patients are women of child-bearing years
- people of all genders, ages, and ethnic groups are susceptible
- highest prevalence is in African-American and Afro-Caribbean women, and lowest prevalence is in white men.



History of Lupus

- **Lupus means “wolf” in Latin**
- **10th century-** case reports appeared in writings
- **Late 1800s-** Sir William Osler initially described the systemic nature and linked rashes to organ involvement
- **1949-** LE cell described by Malcolm Hargraves at Mayo Clinic
- **1954- ANA described**
- **1971- First set of classification criteria proposed for Lupus**
- **1983- Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome described**

PATHOGENESIS




ABNORMAL IMMUNE RESPONSES:

- (1) **activation of innate immunity** (dendritic cells, monocyte/macrophages) by immune complexes or viral DNA / RNA
- (2) **lowered activation thresholds and abnormal activation pathways** in adaptive immunity cells (mature T and B lymphocytes)
- (3) **ineffective regulatory** CD4+ and CD8+ T cells, B cells, and myeloid-derived **suppressor cells**
- (4) **reduced clearance** of immune complexes and apoptotic cells



RISK FACTORS FOR SLE

- Female sex
 - Oestrogen containing OCP or HRT (1.2- to 2-fold)
 - XXY karyotype (Klinefelter's syndrome)
 - Exposure to UV light causes SLE flares in approx. 70% patients.
 - Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) can trigger SLE in susceptible individuals
 - Current tobacco smoking (odds ratio [OR] 1.5)
 - Prolonged occupational exposure to silica (OR 4.3)
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CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
► <u>Systemic</u> : Fatigue, malaise, fever, anorexia, weight loss	95
► <u>Musculoskeletal</u>	95
Arthralgias/myalgias	95
Nonerosive polyarthritis	60
Hand deformities	10
Myopathy/myositis	25/5
Ischemic necrosis of bone	15

ARTHROPATHY & HAND DEFORMITY IN SLE



Jaccoud's arthropathy



CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

Manifestation

Prevalence(%)

■ Cutaneous

Photosensitivity

70

Malar rash

50

Oral ulcers

40

Alopecia

40

Discoid rash

20

Vasculitis rash

20

Other(e.g.,urticaria, subacute cutaneous lupus)

15

CUTANEOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE



CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Hematologic</u>	85
Anemia (chronic disease)	70
Hemolytic anemia	10
Leukopenia ($<4000/\mu\text{L}$)	65
Lymphopenia ($<1500/\mu\text{L}$)	50
Thrombocytopenia ($<100,000/\mu\text{L}$)	15
Lymphadenopathy	15
Splenomegaly	15

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Neurologic</u>	60
Cognitive disorder	50
Mood disorder	40
Headache	25
Seizures	20
Mono/ polyneuropathy	15
Stroke, TIA	10
Acute confusion /movement disorder	2-5
Aseptic meningitis, myelopathy	<1

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

■ Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Cardiopulmonary</u>	60
Pleurisy, pericarditis, effusions	30–50
Myocarditis, endocarditis	10
Lupus pneumonitis	10
Coronary artery disease	10
Interstitial fibrosis	5
Pulmonary hypertension,ARDS,hemorrhage	<5
Shrinking lung syndrome	<5

LIBMAN-SACKS ENDOCARDITIS



Noninfective thrombotic endocarditis involving mitral valve in SLE.

Note nodular vegetations along line of closure and extending onto chordae tendineae

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Renal</u>	30–50
Proteinuria ≥ 500 mg/24 h, cellular casts	30–50
Nephrotic syndrome	25
End-stage renal disease	5–10

Nephritis is usually the most serious manifestation of SLE

CLASSIFICATION OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS

TABLE 378-2 CLASSIFICATION OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY AND RENAL PATHOLOGY SOCIETY)

Class I: Minimal Mesangial Lupus Nephritis

Normal glomeruli by light microscopy, but mesangial immune deposits by immunofluorescence.

Class II: Mesangial Proliferative Lupus Nephritis

Purely mesangial hypercellularity of any degree or mesangial matrix expansion by light microscopy, with mesangial immune deposits. A few isolated subepithelial or subendothelial deposits may be visible by immunofluorescence or electron microscopy, but not by light microscopy.

Class III: Focal Lupus Nephritis

Active or inactive focal, segmental or global endo- or extracapillary glomerulonephritis involving ≤50% of all glomeruli typically with focal subendothelial immune deposits, with or without mesangial alterations.

Class III (A): Active lesions—focal proliferative lupus nephritis

Class III (A/C): Active and chronic lesions—focal proliferative and sclerosing lupus nephritis

Class III (C): Chronic inactive lesions with glomerular scars—focal sclerosing lupus nephritis

CLASSIFICATION OF LUPUS NEPHRITIS CONTD...

Class IV: Diffuse Lupus Nephritis

Active or inactive diffuse, segmental or global endo- or extracapillary glomerulonephritis involving >50% of all glomeruli typically with diffuse subendothelial immune deposits with or without mesangial alterations. This class is divided into diffuse segmental (IV-S) lupus nephritis when ≥50% of the involved glomeruli have segmental lesions, and diffuse global (IV-G) lupus nephritis when ≥50% of the involved glomeruli have global lesions. Segmental is defined as a glomerular lesion that involves less than one-half of the glomerular tuft. This class includes cases with diffuse wire loop deposits but with little or no glomerular proliferation.

Class IV-S (A): Active lesions—diffuse segmental proliferative lupus nephritis

Class IV-G (A): Active lesions—diffuse global proliferative lupus nephritis

Class IV-S (A/C): Active and chronic lesions—diffuse segmental proliferative and sclerosing lupus nephritis

Class IV-G (A/C): Active and chronic lesions—diffuse global proliferative and sclerosing lupus nephritis

Class IV-S (C): Chronic inactive lesions with scars—diffuse segmental sclerosing lupus nephritis

Class IV-G (C): Chronic inactive lesions with scars—diffuse global sclerosing lupus nephritis

Class V: Membranous Lupus Nephritis

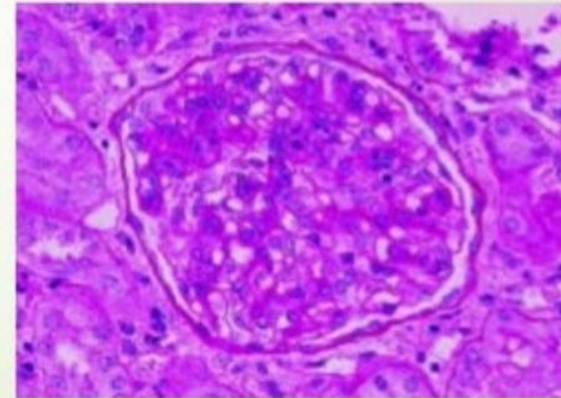
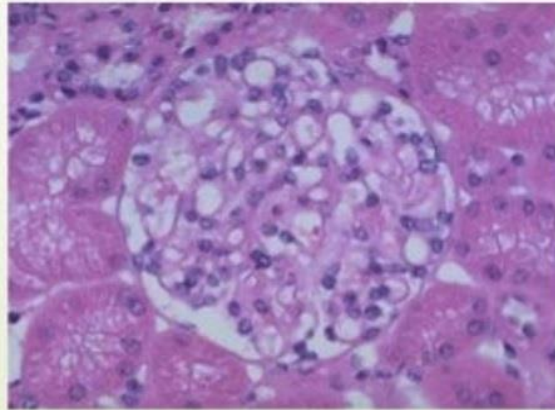
Global or segmental subepithelial immune deposits or their morphologic sequelae by light microscopy and by immunofluorescence or electron microscopy, with or without mesangial alterations. Class V lupus nephritis may occur in combination with class III or IV, in which case both will be diagnosed. Class V lupus nephritis may show advanced sclerosis.

Class VI: Advanced Sclerotic Lupus Nephritis

≥90% of glomeruli globally sclerosed without residual activity.

ON RENAL BIOPSY

Inflammation can be:
Focal
Diffuse



CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

■ Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Gastrointestinal</u>	40
Nonspecific(nausea, mild pain, diarrhea)	30
Abnormal liver enzymes	40
Vasculitis	5

CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS OF SLE & PREVALENCE OVER THE ENTIRE DISEASE COURSE

■ Manifestation	Prevalence(%)
<u>Thrombosis</u>	15
Venous	10
Arterial	5
<u>Ocular</u>	15
Sicca syndrome	15
Conjunctivitis, episcleritis	10
Vasculitis	5

COMPLICATIONS OF VASCULITIS



AUTOANTIBODIES IN SLE

TABLE 378-1 AUTOANTIBODIES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE)

Antibody	Prevalence, %	Antigen Recognized	Clinical Utility
Antinuclear antibodies	98	Multiple nuclear	Best screening test; repeated negative tests make SLE unlikely
Anti-dsDNA	70	DNA (double-stranded)	High titers are SLE-specific and in some patients correlate with disease activity, nephritis, vasculitis
Anti-Sm	25	Protein complexed to 6 species of nuclear U1 RNA	Specific for SLE; no definite clinical correlations; most patients also have anti-RNP; more common in blacks and Asians than whites
Anti-RNP	40	Protein complexed to U1 RNA	Not specific for SLE; high titers associated with syndromes that have overlap features of several rheumatic syndromes including SLE; more common in blacks than whites
Anti-Ro (SS-A)	30	Protein complexed to hY RNA, primarily 60 kDa and 52 kDa	Not specific for SLE; associated with sicca syndrome, predisposes to subacute cutaneous lupus, and to neonatal lupus with congenital heart block; associated with decreased risk for nephritis
Anti-La (SS-B)	10	47-kDa protein complexed to hY RNA	Usually associated with anti-Ro; associated with decreased risk for nephritis
Antihistone	70	Histones associated with DNA (in nucleosome, chromatin)	More frequent in drug-induced lupus than in SLE
Antiphospholipid	50	Phospholipids, β_2 glycoprotein 1 (β_2 G1) cofactor, prothrombin	Three tests available—ELISAs for cardiolipin and β_2 G1, sensitive prothrombin time (DRVVT); predisposes to clotting, fetal loss, thrombocytopenia
Antierthrocyte	60	Erythrocyte membrane	Measured as direct Coombs test; a small proportion develops overt hemolysis
Antiplatelet	30	Surface and altered cytoplasmic antigens on platelets	Associated with thrombocytopenia, but sensitivity and specificity are not good; this is not a useful clinical test
Antineuronal (includes antiglutamate receptor)	60	Neuronal and lymphocyte surface antigens	In some series, a positive test in CSF correlates with active CNS lupus
Antiribosomal P	20	Protein in ribosomes	In some series, a positive test in serum correlates with depression or psychosis due to CNS lupus

ANA patterns

Staining Patterns

- Observer dependent
- Not sensitive
- Not specific
- Only LOOSELY associated with certain disease states

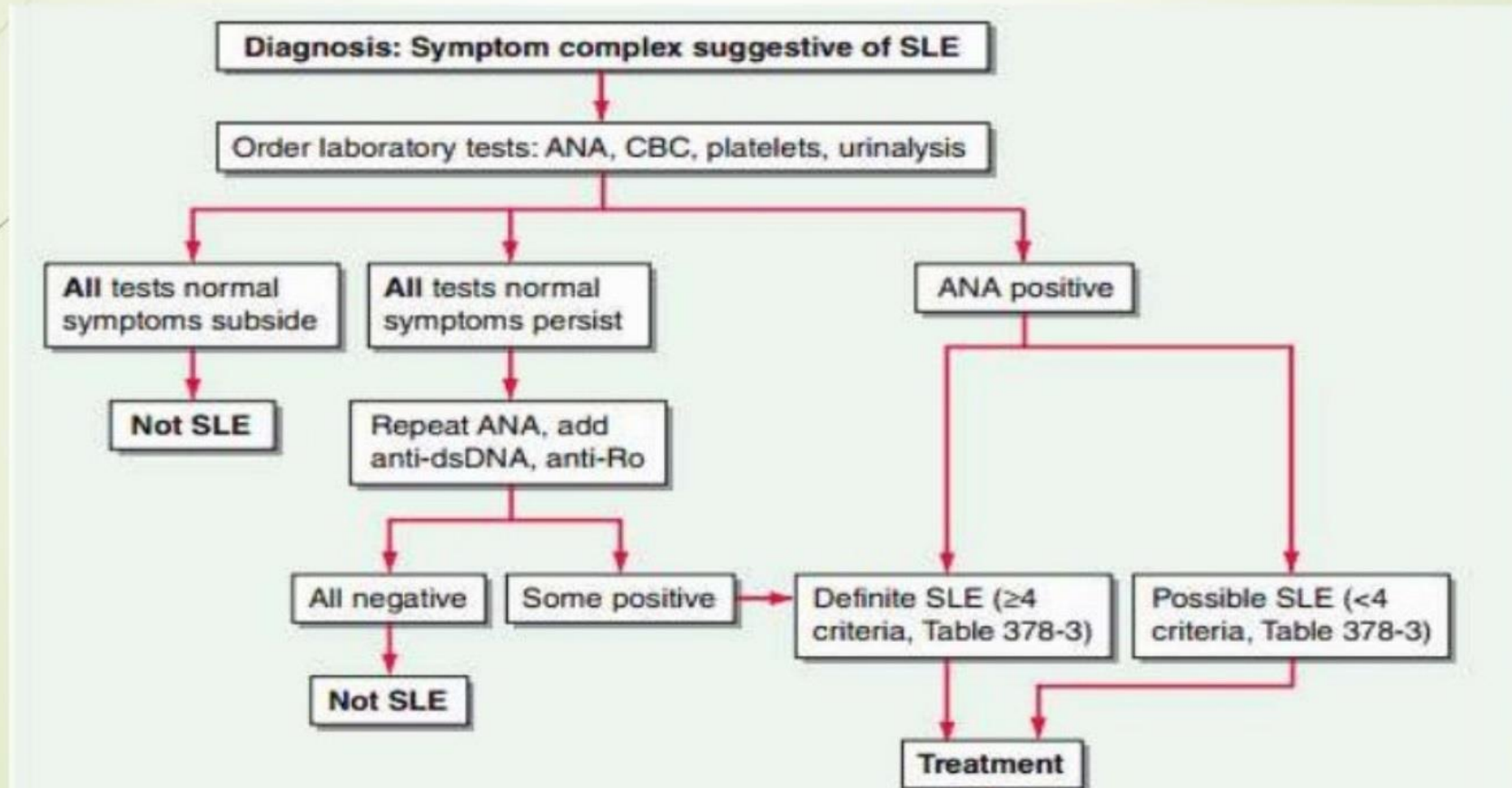
HENCE ANA PATTERN HAS NO CINICAL SIGNIFICANCE

What other diagnoses should clinicians consider in patients with possible lupus?

- Chronic fatigue syndrome
- Fibromyalgia
- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Small or medium vessel vasculitides
- Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura
- Viral arthritis
- Hematopoietic cancer
- Malignant lymphoproliferative syndromes

DIAGNOSIS

- The diagnosis of SLE is based on characteristic clinical features and autoantibodies.



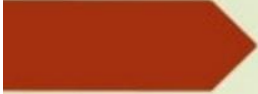
2012 SLICC Classification Criteria

Clinical Manifestations	Immunologic Manifestations
Skin	ANA > reference negative value
Acute, subacute cutaneous LE	Anti-dsDNA
Chronic cutaneous LE	Anti-Sm
Oral ulcers	Antiphospholipid
Alopecia	Low serum complement
Synovitis	Positive direct Coombs test
Renal	
Prot/Cr ≥ 0.5	
RBC casts	
Biopsy*	
Neurologic	
Seizures, psychosis, mononeuritis, myelitis, peripheral or cranial neu- ropathies, acute confusional state	
Hemolytic anemia	
Leukopenia (<4000) or	
Lymphopenia (<1000)	
Thrombocytopenia (<100,000)	

NO SEROSITIS in criteria

*Renal biopsy read as systemic lupus qualifies for classification as SLE even if none of the other above features are present.

Interpretation: Presence of any 4 criteria (must have at least 1 in each category) qualifies patient to be classified as having SLE with 93% specificity and 92% sensitivity.




Should clinicians screen patients for asymptomatic lupus if they are at increased risk?


- *Not recommended*
 - ❑ Including those with a family history
- **Test for ANA produces too many false-positives**
 - ❑ Detected in 3-5% of healthy individuals or patients with other autoimmune or infectious diseases
- Serologic evidence may precede clinical manifestations
 - ❑ By 3 to 9 years
 - ❑ **Treating during this clinically 'silent' period doesn't halt or delay development**



Drug- Induced Lupus

- syndrome appears during therapy with certain medications and biologic agents
 - predominant in whites
 - Production of autoantibodies more common than clinical symptoms commonly associated with antibodies to histones
 - Rarely associated with anti-dsDNA
 - 99% disappear within 3 months of stopping the medicine.
 - Has less female predilection than SLE
 - Rarely involves kidneys or brain
- 


DIL COMMON ASSOCIATIONS

- 
- Antiarrhythmics: procainamide, disopyramide, and propafenone
 - Anti hypertensives: hydralazine; several ACE inhibitors and beta blockers
 - Antithyroid: propylthiouracil
 - Antipsychotics: chlorpromazine and lithium
 - Anticonvulsants: carbamazepine and phenytoin
 - Antibiotics: isoniazid, minocycline, and nitrofurantoin
 - Antirheumatic: sulfasalazine
 - Diuretic: hydrochlorothiazide
 - Antihyperlipidemics: lovastatin and simvastatin
 - IFNs and TNF inhibitors

ANA usually appears before symptoms



Neonatal Lupus

- Rare condition
 - not true lupus, passively transferred autoimmune disease
 - Occurs when mother is SSA/SSB positive
 - Transplacental transfer of IgG anti SSA or SSB antibodies
 - 5-7% babies will have a transient rash, resolves by 6-8 months
 - 2% of babies will have cardiac complications with congenital heart block
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Neonatal Lupus

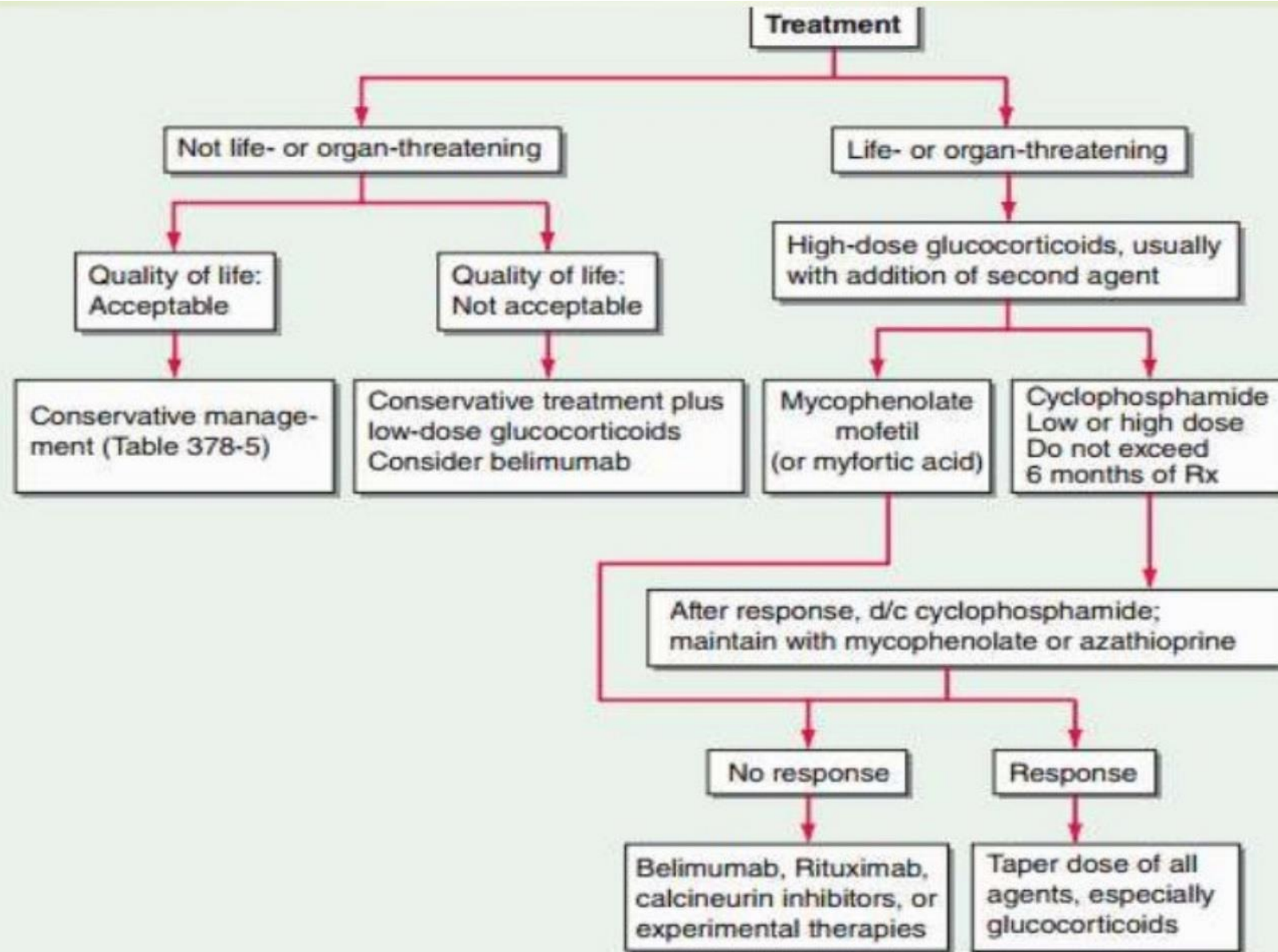


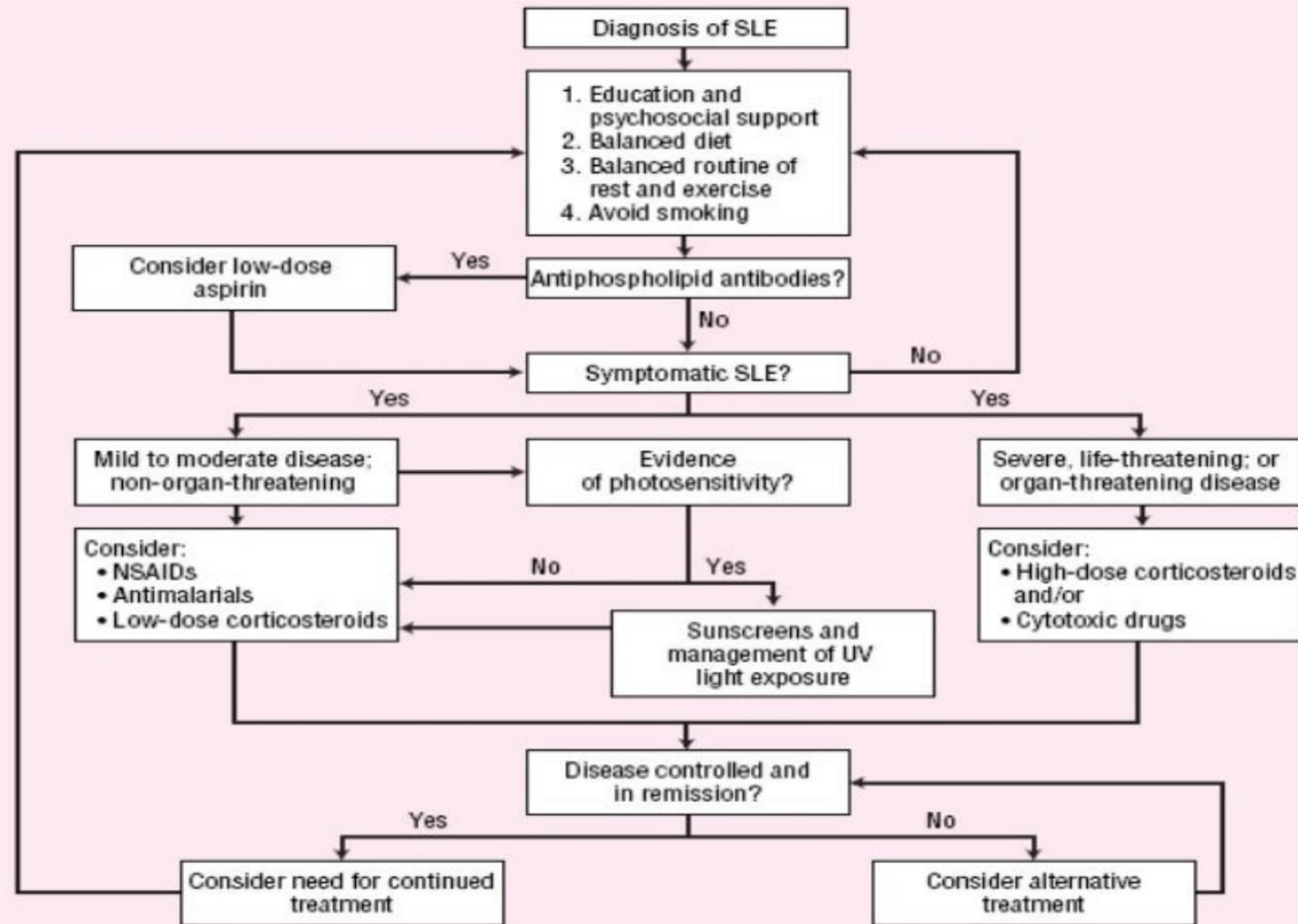
Treatment

- There is no cure for SLE, and complete sustained remissions are rare.

Treatment Plan: to induce remissions of acute flares and then suppress symptoms to an acceptable level and prevent organ damage.

- Therapeutic choices depend on:
 - (1) whether disease manifestations are **life-threatening** or likely to cause organ damage, justifying aggressive therapies
 - (2) manifestations are **potentially reversible**
 - (3) the best approaches to **preventing complications** of disease and its treatments.
- Evaluate for organ involvement
 - SSA/SSB ab: pregnancy risks
 - APL ab: clotting, pregnancy risks





Treatment: Analgesics/Anti-inflammatory

- Acetaminophen, NSAIDS
- Used in lupus over for symptom relief particularly for arthritis/arthralgias
- Acetaminophen may be a good strategy for its favourable side effect profile, but NSAIDs are more effective in some patients.

However, two major issues indicate caution in using NSAIDs:


- SLE patients are at **increased risk for NSAID-induced aseptic meningitis, elevated serum transaminases, hypertension, and renal dysfunction.**
- All NSAIDs, particularly those that inhibit cyclooxygenase-2 specifically may **increase risk for myocardial infarction.**

Treatment: Antimalarials

- hydroxychloroquine, chloroquine
- Prevent activation of toll like receptors 7 & 9
- Used in lupus over 50 years for dermatitis, arthritis
- FDA approved
- Prevents relapses
- Reduces risk for congenital heart block in neonatal SLE
- Reasonably safe, potential retinal toxicity
- Eye exam once yearly



Hydroxychlorquine

- Takes 6 weeks to kick in, up to 6 months for maximal effect
 - Dose is 200-400 mg/day
 - Reduces intensity of flares
 - Increases time to flare
 - Treats skin and joint manifestations
 - Safe in pregnancy(?)
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Corticosteroids

- Mainstay for organ/life threatening disease
- Work quickly and effectively; action starts within 24 hours
- Starting dose: Oral: Prednisone- 0.5-1mg/kg/day; taper over 4-6 weeks, by 10% q week; low dose: 0.07-0.3 mg/kg/day
- For life/ organ threatening conditions:
IV Methylprednisolone 0.5-1 gm/day * 3-5 days followed by oral tapering
- Maintenance dose of 5-10 mg prednisone after tapering
- Add a steroid sparing immunosuppressant
- Long term AE: hyperglycemia, hyperlipidemia, hypertension, accelerated atherosclerosis, osteoporosis, AVN, cataracts, glaucoma, PUD, skin thinning, emotional lability



Immunosuppressive agents

- Methotrexate: used for arthritis and skin
 - Leflunomide: used for arthritis
 - Azathioprine: useful for renal disease, autoimmune hepatitis, pulmonary disease, myositis, cutaneous manifestations
 - Mycophenylate Mofetil: lupus nephritis
 - Cyclosporine: membranous nephritis, aplasias
 - Cyclophosphamide: used for severe disease- nephritis, CNS involvement, vasculitis
 - Rituximab: used for severe organ threatening disease
 - Belimumab: FDA Approved for Lupus
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Doses of Immunosuppressive agents

- Methotrexate: 10–25 mg once a week, PO or SC
 - Leflunomide: 10–20 mg/d
 - Azathioprine: 2–3 mg/kg per day PO for induction; 1–2 mg/kg per day for maintenance
 - Mycophenylate Mofetil: 2–3 g/d PO for induction therapy, 1–2 g/d for maintenance therapy
- 

Doses of Immunosuppressive agents

- Cyclosporine: 2.5 mg/kg/day orally in 2 equally divided doses.
maximum dose of 5 mg/kg/day

- Cyclophosphamide:

Low dose: 500 mg every 2 weeks for 6 doses, then begin maintenance with MMF or AZA.

High dose: 7–25 mg/kg or 500–1000 mg/m² q month × 6 doses

- Rituximab: 375 mg/m² q wk × 4 doses **or** 1 g q 2 wks × 2

What new medications are available for treating systemic lupus?

- Belimumab (10 mg/kg dose) wks 0,2,and 4, then monthly
 - ❑ Monoclonal antibody targeting B lymphocyte stimulator
 - ❑ FDA approved for treatment
 - ❑ Improves musculoskeletal, mucocutaneous manifestations
 - ❑ Improves immunological parameters
 - ❑ Fewer patients had worsening hematological parameters

Trials excluded patients with severe lupus nephritis or severe CNS manifestations




Studies of highly targeted experimental therapies for SLE are in progress

- 1. Agents that target activated B lymphocytes with anti-CD22 or TACI-Ig
- 2. Agents that inhibits of IFN- α
- 3. Agents that inhibits of B/T cell second signal coactivation with CTLA-Ig
- 4. Agents that inhibits innate immune activation via TLR7 or TLR7 and 9
- 5. Agents that induces regulatory T cells with peptides from immunoglobulins or autoantigens
- 6. Agents that suppresses T cells, B cells, and monocyte/macrophages with laquinimod
- 7. inhibition of lymphocyte activation by blockade of Jak/Stat



On the horizon...

- Only four FDA approved medications for lupus- prednisone, hydroxychloroquine, aspirin, belimumab
 - Many clinical trials ongoing looking at innovative biologic therapies
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How should clinicians choose therapy for a patient who is having a flare?

- IV glucocorticoids + immunosuppressive medications
 - ❑ For severe manifestations (lupus nephritis, alveolar hemorrhage, CNS vasculitis)
 - ❑ Withdraw glucocorticoids once remission achieved
- Oral prednisone or methyprednisolone
 - ❑ For arthritis, pleuropericarditis, cutaneous vasculitis, uveitis

How should clinicians choose and dose drug therapy for lupus nephritis?

- Class I or II: no immunosuppressive therapy
- **Class III or IV: treat aggressively**
 - Standard therapy: cyclophosphamide + IV glucocorticoids
 - Newer regimen: mycophenolate mofetil + glucocorticoids
- **Class V: prednisone 0.5 mg/kg/d + mycophenolate mofetil**
- **If overlap with III/IV or having nephrotic range proteinuria:**
 - **treat aggressively as Class III or IV**
- **Class VI: preparation for renal replacement therapy**

➤ Maintenance therapy

- ❑ Mycophenolate mofetil
- ❑ Azathioprine
- ❑ Both superior to cyclophosphamide

➤ For patients who don't respond to either

- ❑ Calcineurin inhibitors (cyclosporine, tacrolimus)
- ❑ Rituximab (monoclonal antibody against CD20)
- ❑ Either in combination with glucocorticoids

How should clinicians choose therapy for neuropsychiatric lupus?

- Treatment relatively empirical
 - ❑ IV glucocorticoids, immunoglobulin, cyclophosphamide
 - ❑ Relapse may be more common in glucocorticoid vs cyclophosphamide treatment
 - ❑ Rituximab may be beneficial, but relapse rate seems high

How should clinicians choose therapy for respiratory manifestations?

➤ Pleuritis

- ❑ NSAIDs, low- to moderate-dose glucocorticoids

➤ Abrupt diffuse alveolar hemorrhage

- ❑ IV glucocorticoids + immunosuppressants; consider plasmapheresis

➤ Pulmonary hypertension

- ❑ PDE-5 inhibitors, ERAs, and prostacyclin analogs may be used; with or without immunosuppressants
- ❑ In interstitial lung disease: glucocorticoids, and, if poor response, cyclophosphamide or azathioprine

➤ Acute lupus pneumonitis

- ❑ High doses of glucocorticoids and cyclophosphamide

How should clinicians choose therapy for ocular manifestations?

- Depends on severity and disease activity
 - ❑ Antimalarials
 - ❑ NSAIDs
 - ❑ Oral or IV glucocorticoids
- Scleral or retinal involvement
 - ❑ Concomitant use of pulse glucocorticoids
 - ❑ Then 1 mg/kg prednisone equivalent + immunosuppressants
- Retinal vasculitis and arterial or venous retinal occlusion with antiphospholipid antibodies
 - ❑ **IV glucocorticoids** + Immunosuppressants + antiplatelet agents / anticoagulation

How should clinicians monitor patients who are being treated for lupus?

- Routinely test: CBC, KFT, LFT, urinalysis
 - ❑ Allows evaluation of target-organ manifestations
- In impending flare: dsDNA antibodies + C3 & C4 levels
- ❑ Controversial for clinically stable patients

Treatment with prednisone of clinically stable but serologically active patients may avert severe flare

- Monitor individual disease manifestations
- ❑ Monitor for immunosuppressant toxicity
- ❑ If treated with hydroxychloroquine: ophthalmological evaluation annually (particularly if >40y and treated for a long time)
- ❑ Monitor for osteoporosis, osteonecrosis
- ❑ Consider periodic lipid testing, ECHO

What should clinicians do about immunizations in people with lupus?

- All patients with SLE should receive
 - ❑ Influenza vaccine
 - ❑ Pneumococcal vaccine
- Consider quadrivalent HPV vaccine
 - ❑ Well-tolerated, reasonably effective in stable SLE
- No live attenuated vaccines if immunocompromised
 - ❑ If on >20mg/d prednisone or immunosuppressants
 - ❑ Including: herpes zoster, Flumist, MMR, smallpox
- Tuberculin skin test recommended
 - ❑ If glucocorticoids or immunosuppressive use prolonged

How should clinicians modify treatment for pregnant patients?


- Treat active lupus manifestations
- ❑ Use hydroxychloroquine and prednisone
- ❑ Discontinuation associated with increased flare risk
- ❑ If severe, consider IV glucocorticoids + azathioprine
- ❑ Contraindicated: mycophenolate mofetil, methotrexate, cyclophosphamide

When should patients with lupus be hospitalized?

- Severe thrombocytopenia
- Severe or rapidly progressive renal disease
- Suspected lupus pneumonitis or pulmonary hemorrhage
- Chest pain or severe cardiovascular manifestations
- CNS and neurological manifestations
- Unexplained fever




Prognosis


- Has dramatically improved over time
 - Normal life expectancy for patients with *drug induced lupus*
cutaneous lupus
lupus without organ involvement
 - Possible increased risk of NHL
- 



Prognosis



Year	5 yr survival	10 yr survival
Prior 1948	50%	
1949	Steroids widely	accessible
1969	Dialysis widely	accessible
1971	77%	60%
1980-present	Increase use of	immunosupp
2000-2007	95%	90%



Poor Prognostic Factors

- High serum creatinine levels ($>124 \mu\text{mol/L}$ [$>1.4 \text{ mg/dl}$])
- Hypertension
- Nephrotic syndrome (24-h urine protein excretion $>2.6 \text{ g}$)*
- Anemia (haemoglobin $<124 \text{ g/L}$ [$<12.4 \text{ g/dl}$])
- Hypoalbuminemia
- Hypocomplementemia
- Antiphospholipid antibodies
- Male sex
- Ethnicity (african american, hispanic with mestizo heritage)
- Low socioeconomic status




Mortality

- Bimodal mortality
 - Early deaths: infection and renal involvement
 - Later deaths: atherosclerotic disease
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- Premenopausal women with lupus have 30-50x higher risk of CAD than their non-lupus counterparts



SLEDAI

- SLEDAI is a widely used measure of SLE disease activity
 - scores >3 reflect clinically active disease.
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Thank you