What is Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)?

SLE is a chronic autoimmune disease that can affect almost any organ system.¹

**Prevalence**

**OVER 90%** of SLE patients are young women around childbearing age.¹

SLE is 2 TO 4 times more frequent, and more severe, among nonwhite populations around the world.⁶

20% of people with lupus have a parent or sibling who already has lupus or may develop lupus.⁵

There are more than 2.1 MILLION patients worldwide with moderate-to-severe lupus.⁴

**Impact and Progression**

SLE has a significant impact on patients’ lives:

- Disease flares can be unpredictable and many patients experience waxing and waning of symptoms.
- Around 25 percent of SLE patients develop lupus nephritis, inflammation of the kidney. This represents a significant risk to morbidity and mortality as it can lead to kidney failure.

**Diagnosis**

Signs and symptoms vary considerably from person to person and overlap with other diseases.⁸

There is a lack of reliable diagnosis markers,⁷ and no one test can diagnose lupus.⁷

Tests include:

- Complete blood count and erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- Liver and kidney assessments
- Urine analysis
- Antinuclear antibody test
- X-rays and echocardiograms
- Skin biopsy

**Treatment**

Limited treatment options exist for SLE.

**BMS is committed to identifying and developing potential new treatment options for patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and lupus nephritis.**

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4. BMS Epidemiology Data on File