

# WHAT IS LUPUS?

Lupus is a:

- ▶ CHRONIC
  - ▶ INCURABLE
  - ▶ UNCOMMON
- autoimmune disease.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

The most serious and common form of lupus is called **Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE)**.<sup>5</sup>

## SLE is driven by Immuno-Inflammation!

Instead of producing normal antibodies to protect the body from infection, in patients with SLE, 'auto-antibodies' are produced and attack health cells.<sup>6</sup>

## PREVALENCE

SLE affects approximately **70%** of lupus patients.<sup>7</sup>

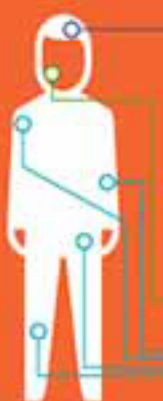


SLE principally affects women (**9 in 10 patients are female**), with the highest risk for onset of SLE during childbearing age.<sup>8,9</sup>

The incidence and prevalence of SLE are higher in African-Americans, along with other ethnic minorities, compared to Caucasians.<sup>10</sup>



## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS



SLE can affect any of the major organs and symptoms can vary greatly in severity and intensity. Some of the most common symptoms include:<sup>11,12,13</sup>

- Debilitating fatigue
- Hair loss
- Fever
- Butterfly-shaped facial skin rash
- Joint pain and swelling

## DIAGNOSIS

An early SLE diagnosis is difficult due to the non-specific symptoms.<sup>14</sup>

External, visible signs of the disease may be few. Classification is based on evidence of 4 of 11 objective criteria devised by the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics.<sup>15</sup>



It can often take years before a lupus diagnosis is made.<sup>16</sup>

**OVER 3/4** of physicians believe their lupus patients have difficulty communicating their support needs.<sup>17</sup>

In the U.S., **60%** of people living with Lupus reported having difficulty communicating their symptoms<sup>18</sup> and **61%** reported that they **tend to minimize** their symptoms to their physician.<sup>19</sup>

People living with lupus are the experts on their lupus. Patients and caregivers can visit [www.usinlupus.com](http://www.usinlupus.com) for online support, information and inspiration.<sup>20</sup>

Everyone in the lupus community desires improvements in self-management of lupus and its symptoms.

**References**  
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