

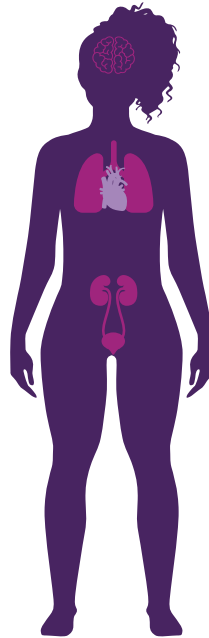
# Get the Facts on Lupus (SLE)

## » Lupus is a disease involving the immune system.

Lupus is a chronic and complex autoimmune disease that may cause widespread inflammation and tissue damage, especially in the brain, lungs, heart, and kidneys.

Research suggests lupus is caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.

Lupus is not contagious.



## » Lupus can be misdiagnosed.

Other conditions that may look like lupus include infections, cancers, or inflammatory diseases.

There is no single test to diagnose lupus. Diagnosis is confirmed by a combination of physical exams, lab tests, and medical history.



## » Symptoms of lupus vary.

Symptoms vary, but the most common symptoms of lupus include:



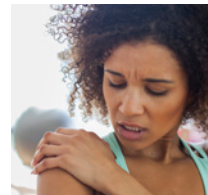
Fatigue



Unexplained  
Fever



Malar  
(Butterfly) rash



Joint swelling



Hair loss

Symptoms may:

- Be mild or severe
- Persist or resolve
- Come on suddenly or over time

## » Anyone can get lupus.

However, it's more likely to occur in:

- Women
- People between the ages of 15-44
- People with a family history of lupus and/or other autoimmune disease
- Certain races and ethnicities, particularly those of African American, Hispanic, Asian, or Native American descent



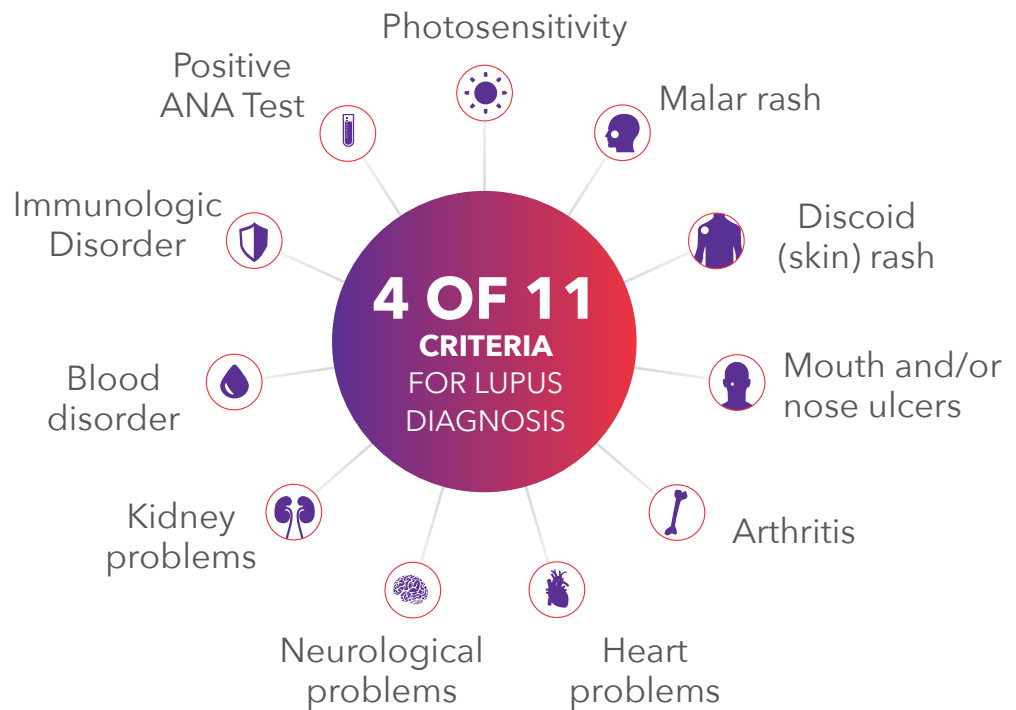
## » Who treats Lupus?

Lupus is generally treated by a team of physicians led by a rheumatologist. A rheumatologist specializes in arthritis and other inflammatory diseases.



## » 11 criteria for lupus diagnosis

No two cases of lupus are the same, which makes lupus difficult to diagnose. At least four of the eleven criteria for lupus are usually present for a rheumatologist to diagnose lupus:



## » If you think you have lupus...

- Write down your symptoms and talk to your health care provider
- Ask your doctor to refer you to a rheumatologist
- To learn more, go to the Lupus Research Alliance website: [lupusresearch.org](http://lupusresearch.org)



[LUPUSRESEARCH.ORG](http://LUPUSRESEARCH.ORG)



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