

# Lupus Nephritis: A Rare and Chronic Autoimmune Kidney Disease

## Disease Overview

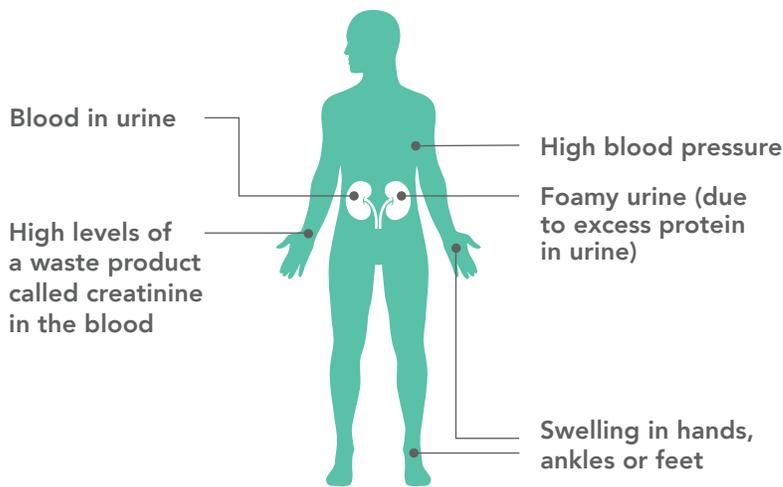


Lupus Nephritis (LN) is a rare disease involving inflammation of the kidneys and represents a serious complication of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE or Lupus), a systemic autoimmune disease that occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs. LN and SLE are chronic and extremely debilitating, progressive diseases that carry an increased risk of death.

## Cause

Kidneys remove waste from blood and control body fluid levels. LN occurs when the body's immune system attacks the kidneys, causing inflammation in the kidneys and preventing performance of vital functions.<sup>1</sup>

## Symptoms and Signs of LN in People With SLE<sup>1</sup>



## Doctors Who Help Manage Care<sup>5</sup>

Rheumatologists



Nephrologists



## Diagnosis Entails<sup>2</sup>

Blood Test



Urine Test



Kidney Biopsy



## Prevalence

SLE affects  
**~322,000**

in the U.S., and **~50% of people** living with SLE will develop LN during their disease.<sup>4</sup>

## Treatments

There are **limited effective treatments for LN**. While steroids and other immunosuppressive drugs can help manage severe LN by slowing or stopping the immune system from attacking healthy cells, **they can have serious side effects, and don't work for about 50% of patients.**<sup>2</sup>

## Factors That May Increase Your Risk of LN Include<sup>3</sup>



**Gender.** Women are more likely to get SLE (9/10). Men with SLE are at a higher risk of getting LN.



**Race or Ethnicity.** **Blacks, Hispanics/Latinos and Asian Americans** are more likely to have lupus nephritis than Caucasians. The prognosis for patients with LN is worse in Blacks and Hispanics.



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## References:

1. [mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lupus-nephritis/symptoms-causes/syc-20354335](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lupus-nephritis/symptoms-causes/syc-20354335) | 2. [mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lupus-nephritis/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20446438](https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/lupus-nephritis/diagnosis-treatment/drc-20446438) | 3. [icer-review.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ICER\\_Lupus-Nephritis\\_Revised-Scope\\_092920.pdf](https://www.icer-review.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/ICER_Lupus-Nephritis_Revised-Scope_092920.pdf) | 4. [cdc.gov/lupus/facts/detailed.html](https://www.cdc.gov/lupus/facts/detailed.html) | 5. [lupus.org/resources/doctors-who-treat-lupus](https://www.lupus.org/resources/doctors-who-treat-lupus)