



SUNDAY MORNING HEALTH CORNER: Partner Edition

Complications of Lupus ¹

Erythematosus, SLE

Systemic lupus is the **most common form of lupus**—it's what most people mean when they refer to "lupus." Systemic lupus can be mild or severe. Below is a brief description of some of the more serious complications involving major organ systems

- **Inflammation of the kidneys—called lupus nephritis**—can affect the body's ability to filter waste from the blood. It can be so damaging that dialysis or kidney transplant may be needed.
- **Inflammation of the nervous system and brain** can cause memory problems, confusion, headaches, and strokes.
- **Inflammation in the brain's blood vessels** can cause high fevers, seizures, and behavioral changes.
- **Hardening of the arteries or coronary artery disease**—the buildup of deposits on coronary artery walls—**can lead to a heart attack**.

Lupus & Black/African American Women ^{2,4}

African American women and women of color are the most likely to be diagnosed with some form of lupus. For African American women, lupus is more common and starts developing at a younger age. In addition, African American women are more likely to face premature death as a result of lupus complications.

What You Should Know About Lupus

Lupus is a systemic autoimmune disease that occurs when your body's immune system attacks your own tissues and organs. Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different body systems — including your joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs.

Lupus can be difficult to diagnose because its signs and symptoms often mimic those of other ailments. The **most distinctive sign of lupus — a facial rash that resembles the wings of a butterfly unfolding across both cheeks** — occurs in many but not all cases of lupus

Risk Factors for Lupus ³

- ▶ **Gender** - Lupus is more common in women.
- ▶ **Age** - Although lupus affects people of all ages, it's most often diagnosed between the ages of 15 and 45.
- ▶ **Race** - Lupus is more common in African-Americans, Hispanics and Asian-Americans.

Participating in clinical trials can help advance therapies for **SLE**. Currently, **Black Americans represent a small percentage of clinical trial participants**. If more people from diverse backgrounds sign up for clinical trials, then doctors can create new, cutting-edge therapies that truly benefit everyone, especially for those people who are the most affected by a disease. Every clinical trial is designed with your safety in mind. Participating in a clinical trial may not only help you, but also may benefit your community and future generations.

Bristol Myers Squibb is now enrolling people in the POETYK SLE trial, a phase 3 trial with the study medication, deucravacitinib, in patients ages 18 and over with lupus.

Please [click here](#) to visit **BMS Study Connect** to learn more about this study and take a simple 8-question pre-screener to see if you may pre-qualify for this study or other SLE research studies.

