

# The Impact of Lupus on the Body

## Central and Peripheral Nervous System

Seizures, Psychosis, Headaches, Cognitive Dysfunction, Neuropathies, Depression, Low Grade Fever

## Heart, Lungs

Pericarditis, Myocarditis, Endocarditis, Pleuritis, Pneumonitis

## Kidneys

Edema, Hypertension, Proteinuria, Cell Casts, Renal Failure

## Reproductive System

Pregnancy Complications, Miscarriages, Menstrual Cycle Irregularities

## Blood

Anemia, Thrombocytopenia, Leukopenia, Thrombosis, Circulating Autoantibodies and Immune Complexes

## Eyes and Mucous Membranes

Ulcers in the Eyes, Nose, Mouth or Vagina, Sjögren's Syndrome

## Gastrointestinal

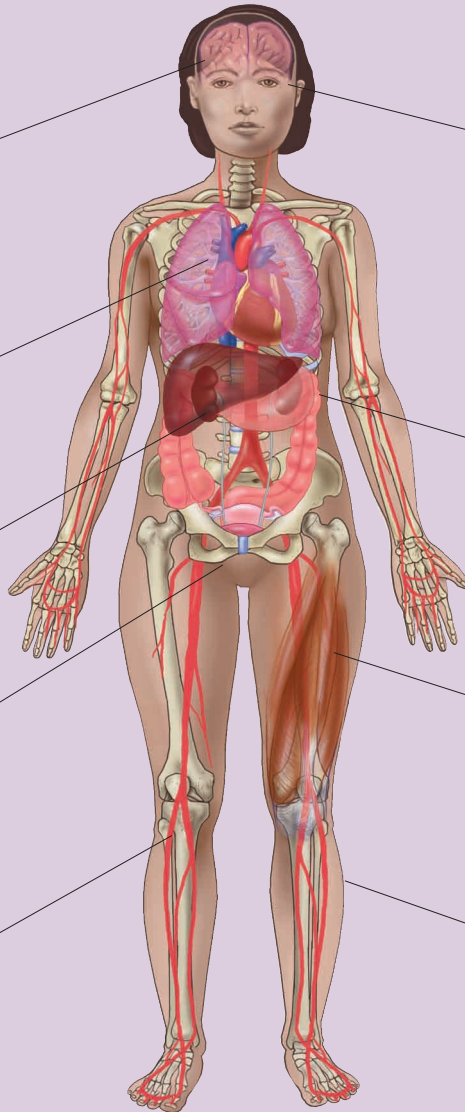
Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea, Weight Changes

## Musculoskeletal

Extreme Fatigue, Arthralgia, Myalgia, Arthritis, Myositis

## Skin

Butterfly Rash, Cutaneous Lesions, Photosensitivity, Alopecia, Vasculitis, Raynaud's Phenomenon



Lupus can affect any part of the body; however, most people experience symptoms in only a few organs.

- Lupus is an incurable chronic autoimmune disease that causes inflammation in various parts of the body. The disease can range from mild to life-threatening.
- The cause of lupus is unknown. Scientists believe that individuals are genetically predisposed to lupus, and that environmental factors “trigger” the symptoms.
- 90% of people with lupus are women, 80% of them developed lupus between ages 15 and 45.
- With proper treatment, most people with lupus can live a normal life span.