

# LUPUS PATHOCHART

## PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic autoimmune inflammatory condition that can affect any body system. This inflammation can cause a wide range of symptoms from fever and muscle/joint pain to pericarditis, renal failure, and seizures. Symptoms will vary greatly between patients. The classic sign is the butterfly rash across the cheeks and nose. Unfortunately, there is no cure at this time.



By Doktorinternet - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0.  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=36008045>

## ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Classic = Butterfly Rash
- Arthritis
- Weakness
- Photosensitivity to UV light

## DIAGNOSTICS

- ↑ ESR and CRP levels
- Clinical Findings

## NURSING PRIORITIES

- Promote Comfort
- Support Immune System

## THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Help patient Identify and Avoid triggers
  - UV light exposure
  - Infection
  - Stress
- Assess respiratory status
- Assess end-organ function (kidney, liver, heart)
- Plan rest periods
- Refer to dietician for anti-inflammatory diet

## MEDICATION THERAPY

- Corticosteroids
- NSAIDs
- Cyclophosphamide (immunosuppressive agent)