

MAIN CHALLENGES IN SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS IN 2023

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Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a systemic immune-mediated disease characterized by a wide variability of clinical manifestations and a course frequently subject to unpredictable flares. Despite significant advances in the understanding of the pathophysiology and optimization of medical care, patients with SLE carry a significant risk of progressive organ damage accrual and reduced health-related quality of life. Altogether, many important challenges remain for the care of SLE (fig 1). Among those are the need to treat to target to favour disease remission (or low disease activity), limit the use of glucocorticoids, derive more comprehensive tools for the evaluation

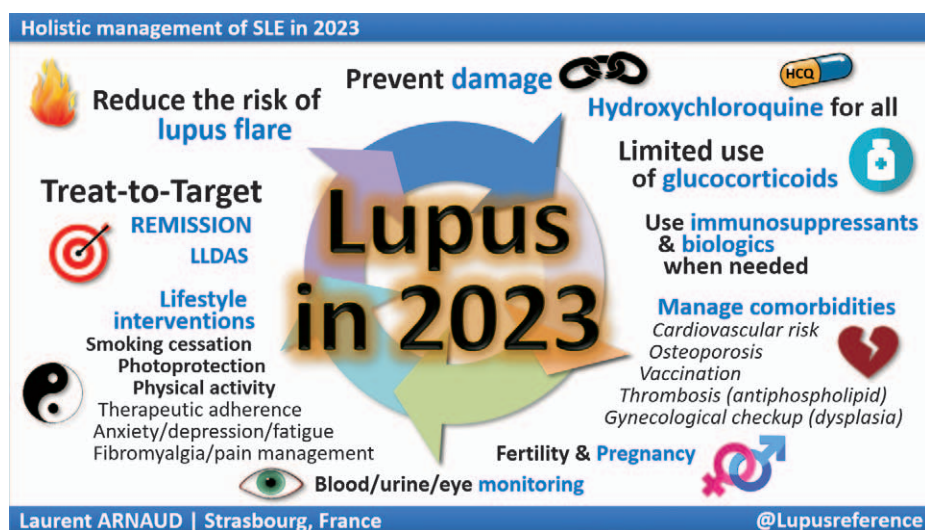


FIG 1. Main challenges in SLE management

tion of disease activity, develop more effective drugs (yielding successful trials), dissect the heterogeneity of the disease both at the molecular and genetic levels to identify new and relevant biomarkers for individualized treatment, manage fertility and pregnancy, tackle major comorbidities such as cardiovascular risk, the prevention of infections and osteoporosis, improve the network of care (from the patients' perspective), and favor a holistic approach (integrating fatigue, adherence to treatment, physical activity). Altogether, these contemporary challenges in SLE may be considered as a roadmap for those involved in the daily care of patients with SLE, as well as for researchers who may wish to contribute to an improved management of this rare and complex disease.

Keywords: systemic lupus erythematosus, disease activity, damage, remission, glucocorticoids, hydroxychloroquine

Conflict of interest statement: Laurent Arnaud is a consultant for Alexion, Alpine, Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, Abbvie, Biogen, BMS Boehringer-Ingelheim, Chugai, GSK, Grifols, Janssen, Kezar, LFB, Lilly, Medac, Novartis, Ono Pharmaceuticals, Pfizer, Roche, UCB.