

# Drug history and SLE laboratory findings among Iraqi patients: a hospital-based study

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## Background

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a recurrent and remitting autoimmune disease that affects many organ systems. It is more common in women of reproductive age, with a 9:1 female preponderance. The interaction of genes with environmental variables causes many immunologic changes, culminating in chronic immune reactions to autologous nucleic acids.

## Methodology

It is a cross-sectional study in Baghdad Medical Complex in Iraq. All SLE patients who attended outpatient clinic between September and December 2022 were included. The patients included those who came for follow-up, deterioration of their symptoms, or first-time diagnosis.

## Results

SLE is much more prevalent among female patients. The ratio of female and male patients in our study was 19 to 1 which is higher than the literature. Other studies have reported male – female ratios ranging from 1-4 till 1 to 15. This disease is much more common in reproductive age and our patients mean age is 34 years old even though the range was quite wide from 15 to 85 years. SLE comes along with many clinical findings. Patients with SLE are characterized by rashes in their bodies especially in their faces.

## Conclusions

In our data malar rashes were much more common than discoid rashes, and these findings align with international findings. Other clinical findings that were very common with a prevalence of more than 60% of the patients were mucosal ulcers, photosensitivity, arthritis, and hematological disorders. Our findings were in consistency with other international studies.

## Reference

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The prevalence of signs and symptoms among the patients

