

improve survival rates. These results should be evaluated prospectively in future studies to find the prediction power in the differentiation of flare and sepsis in this group of patients.

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# THE ROLE OF NEUTROPHIL-LYMPHOCYTE RATIO(NLR), AND OTHER BIOMARKERS (C – REACTIVE PROTEIN CRP, COUNT OF MONOCYTES AND LYMPHOCYTES) DIFFERENTIATING LUPIC ACTIVITY (FLARE) FROM INFECTION

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**Background and aims** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is one of the most prevalent connective tissue diseases, it is commonly associated with an infection being so difficult to differentiate if the systemic inflammatory response is secondary to a bacterial infection, or to the underlying autoimmune activity (FLARE). The aim of this study was to determine the utility of C reactive protein (CRP), neutrophil-lymphocyte ratio (NLR), count of monocytes, and lymphocytes in patients with positive cultures and flare.

**Methods** A retrospective study was conducted, 58 patients with SLE were admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) at a University Hospital in Bogotá, Colombia, between 2008 and 2017. Bivariate analysis was performed to identify if there was a possible association with positive cultures in patients with (flare)

**Results** In patients with lupic activity (SLEDAI:8–12) NRL was consistently associated with flare, NRL >10 (OR: 17; 95% CI 2.13 to 136.8, p=0.007), count of lymphocytes<500 cells/mm<sup>3</sup> was associated with lupic activity (OR: 6.33; 95% CI 1.30 to 30.7, p=0.022), in severe lupic activiy de CRP did not show association; one variable consistently associated with positive cultures in the logistic regression model with adequate prediction parameters: absolute count of monocyte >400 cell/mm<sup>3</sup> (OR: 3.51; 95% CI 1.13 to 10.88, p=0.029), the others variables NRL, CRP showed no association with positive cultures.

**Conclusions** The (NRL) >10 Could help to differentiate LES activity from infection, leading to early antibiotic therapy, or immunotherapy to improve survival rates. These results should be evaluated prospectively in future studies.

## SLE Organ manifestations: clinical and pathogenesis

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### EYE MANIFESTATIONS OF LUPUS

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**Background and aims** The body is one unit and the ultimate care of a patient with a multisystem disease such as lupus requires the integrated care of several specialists. Systemic

lupus has some potentially blinding ocular complications such as lupus retinopathy. Early detection of these complications by the ophthalmologist can help salvage vision of the patient. Moreover, some cases present first to the ophthalmologist, so an ophthalmologist trained in detecting the ocular manifestations of multisystem diseases can refer the patient promptly to the rheumatologist and help minimise the disease-associated morbidity. The aim of this study was to describe the ocular manifestations of lupus in patients who presented to the main university hospital in Alexandria from July 2014 to March 2016.

**Methods** A prospective study was conducted and included 128 patients with lupus. A thorough ophthalmic examination was conducted by the author using the slitlamp biomicroscope and a fundus lens

**Results** Out of the 128 patients, 61 patients had lupus retinopathy at time of presentation or developed it *de novo* during the period of the study. Thirty two patients had lupus keratopathy. And eighty one patients had dry eye of various degrees of severity, 3 of them culminated into potentially sight threatening corneal ulcers. Communication with the treating rheumatologists was done and an overall 81% improvement in ocular lupus patients was achieved by the end of the study. One patient lost one eye due to late presentation

**Conclusions** Lupus is a potentially blinding disease requiring full cooperation between the ophthalmologist and the rheumatologist.

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### SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE WITH 150 SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS PATIENTS

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**Background and aims** Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is an autoimmune disease with diverse clinical manifestations. Here, we present 150 patients with SLE attending our clinic between January and November 2016.

**Methods** Demographics, clinics, laboratory findings, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index (SLEDAI), Systemic Lupus International Clinics (SLICC)/American College of Rheumatology (ACR) damage index scores and treatments were analysed. Diagnosis was confirmed with 1997 ACR or 2012 SLICC classifications. Chi-squared or Fisher's exact tests were used for statistical analysis.

**Results** General characteristics are presented in Table 1. Clinics are presented in Table 2. Treatments patients ever received are presented in Table 3.

**Conclusions** SLICC damage was positive in patients receiving pulse steroids (57%), cyclophosphamide (51%), rituximab (73%). In long term, 3 (2%) patients had pulmonary

Abstract 204 Table 1 General characteristics

Age (years)	46±12.8
Disease duration (months)	121.3±92.4 (min-max:6–132)
Gender (Female/Male)	139 (92.7%)/11 (7.3%)
SLEDAI	min-max:0–30, median:1.5
SLICC/ACR damage index	min-max:0–5, median:0