52% respectively, p=0.044) (Figure 1). LN diagnosed in 1998–2013 was associated with 5 year and 10 year relapse-free survival rates of 93% and 86% respectively, compared with 81% and 66% respectively (p=0.017) for patients who presented in 1983–1997 (Figure 2).

Conclusions The risk of renal relapse has decreased in the current era, probably attributed to replacement of AZA with MPA as maintenance treatment. 

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**ANTIPHOSPHOLIPID ANTIBODY POSITIVITY AND RELATED CLINICAL CHARACTERISTICS IN KOREAN LUPUS PATIENTS**

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**Background and aims** Pre-emptive immunosuppressive treatment for asymptomatic serological activation (ASR) in lupus nephritis (LN) patients remains controversial, and its impact on subsequent flare rate and long-term renal outcome is unclear.

**Methods** We conducted a retrospective study on all episodes of ASR in 1993–2015 to investigate the relationship between pre-emptive treatment and subsequent clinical flares and renal outcomes.

**Results** 138 episodes of ASR occurred in 98 patients during the study period. 53 episodes (in 38 patients) were treated with pre-emptive increase in immunosuppression while 85 episodes (in 60 patients) were not, and patients were followed up for 88.8±77.3 months and 82.8±89.7 months respectively after ASR occurred. Pre-emptive treatment was associated with superior renal relapse-free survival (100%, 95% and 90% at 6, 12 and 24 months respectively) compared with no pre-emptive treatment (93%, 68% and 65% respectively, p=0.007), while extra-renal relapse-free survival did not differ between the two groups (Figure 1). 5 (9.4%) of 53 ASR episodes treated pre-emptively developed renal flare at 14.3±6.7 months after ASR. Patients who received pre-emptive treatment for ASR and did not develop renal flares showed also better eGFR slope (+0.54±0.43 ml/min/1.73 m²/year) compared with the non-pre-emptive groups with or without renal flares (−2.11±0.50 and −1.00±0.33 ml/min/1.73 m²/year respectively, p=0.001 and 0.012) (Figure 2). Pre-emptive treatment was associated with more gastrointestinal adverse events related to increased mycophenolate dose (p=0.031). Infection rate was similar between both groups.

**Conclusions** Renal flares have a negative impact on renal function and pre-emptive treatment for ASR could reduce renal flare risk and its consequences in LN patients.
Background and aims To identify the prevalence of positive antiphospholipid antibodies (aPL) and related clinical characteristics in Korean SLE patients

Methods Among 505 SLE patients from KORcan lupus NETwork (KORNET), we selected 469 patients who underwent aPL tests within 2 years of enrollment. They were classified into two groups: 1) aPL (+) group as patients with at least one positive aPL which includes IgG anticardiolipin antibody (aCL >40 GPLU/ml), IgG anti-ß2 glycoprotein I (anti- ß2GPI >40 SGU/ml) and lupus anticoagulant (LAC), and 2) aPL (-) groups as patients with negative aPL. We compared the demographic and clinical characteristics between two groups, and clinical symptoms of thrombosis and obstetric complications were compared according to aPL positivity.

Results The 49 (10.4%) SLE patient had at least one positive aPL, and all 3 aPL were positive in 1 patient (0.2%). Although age, sex, autoantibody profile, and the SELENA SLEDAI score were not different between two groups, the SLICC/ACR damage index was higher in aPL (+) group (p=0.03), and 57.1% of aPL (+) patients were using aspirin. More patients in aPL (+) group underwent cerebrovascular disease (CVD) (<0.01), whereas no statistical difference was found in history of ischaemic heart disease or spontaneous abortion. Moreover, renal failure was higher in aPL (+) group (p<0.01), while lupus nephritis was comparable between two groups (p=0.70).
Conclusions Ten percent of patients had positive aPL in Korean SLE patients. In addition, CVD and renal failure were more common in patients with aPL (+) SLE patients.

Background and aims Herpes-zoster (HZ) has higher occurrence in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) compared to the general population. This study aimed to identify risk factors associated with HZ infections in SLE.

Methods We included patients from Lupus Database of University of Santo Tomas (UST) Hospital, Manila, Philippines, who were diagnosed with HZ infection. Controls included SLE patients without HZ matched for age, sex and disease duration. SLE disease activity, corticosteroid, immunosuppressives, and hydroxychloroquine were compared between groups.

Results In a review of 626 patient records, 65 SLE patients (61, 93.8% females) developed HZ, with incidence 10.4/1000 person-years. Mean age was 36.5 years +11 (range 19–60), mean SLE disease duration to HZ 6.1 years +3.3 (range 2–17). HZ lesions were localised in 63 (97%), disseminated in 2 (3%) patients. Four patients had >2 HZ episodes. All responded favourably to anti-viral therapy with minimal