

**Supplementary Table 3. Complement/anti-dsDNA antibody level, glucocorticoid dosage, and LLDAS achievement**

ratio of each group

	SLE without prior severe organ involvement (n = 24)	SLE with prior severe organ involvement (n = 49)	p-value
C3 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	93.00 [72.50, 102.00]	85.00 [70.50, 96.00]	0.21
C3 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	93.00 [78.50, 104.00]	81.00 [71.25, 94.25]	0.05
C3 on the day of GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	90.00 [81.00, 102.50]	82.50 [67.75, 97.25]	0.05
C3 26 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	93.00 [84.00, 110.00]	80.00 [66.00, 93.50]	0.01
C3 52 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	96.50 [82.75, 110.50]	76.00 [67.00, 90.75]	<0.01
C4 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	19.00 [14.00, 26.50]	16.00 [11.50, 21.00]	0.09
C4 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	19.00 [15.00, 29.00]	17.00 [14.00, 22.00]	0.11
C4 on the day of GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	20.00 [14.50, 27.50]	18.00 [13.50, 20.00]	0.03
C4 26 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	21.00 [15.50, 26.50]	16.00 [12.00, 20.50]	0.02
C4 52 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/dL)	21.50 [16.25, 27.75]	17.50 [12.00, 20.75]	0.01
Anti-dsDNA antibody 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (IU/mL)	3.50 [2.30, 5.50]	11.00 [4.00, 21.50]	0.01
Anti-dsDNA antibody 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (IU/mL)	3.50 [2.85, 5.00]	6.00 [3.00, 11.00]	0.07
Anti-dsDNA antibody on the day of GC discontinuation (IU/mL)	3.50 [1.50, 5.25]	6.00 [3.00, 14.50]	0.04
Anti-dsDNA antibody 26 weeks after GC discontinuation (IU/mL)	3.00 [2.00, 5.00]	4.00 [3.00, 11.50]	0.08
Anti-dsDNA antibody 52 weeks after GC discontinuation (IU/mL)	3.00 [0.00, 4.00]	7.00 [3.00, 16.00]	<0.01

<b>GC dosage 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/day) **</b>	2.50 [1.38, 4.50]	3.38 [2.00, 5.00]	0.08
<b>GC dosage 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation (mg/day) **</b>	1.71 [1.00, 3.25]	2.00 [1.50, 3.00]	0.34
<b>GC dosage on the day of GC discontinuation (mg/day) **</b>	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	N/A
<b>GC dosage 26 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/day) **</b>	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.11
<b>GC dosage 52 weeks after GC discontinuation (mg/day) **</b>	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.85
<b>SELENA-SLEDAI 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation</b>	0.00 [0.00, 1.00]	2.00 [0.00, 4.00]	0.02
<b>SELENA-SLEDAI 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation</b>	0.00 [0.00, 2.00]	0.00 [0.00, 2.00]	0.32
<b>SELENA-SLEDAI on the day of GC discontinuation</b>	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 2.00]	0.05
<b>SELENA-SLEDAI 26 weeks after GC discontinuation</b>	0.00 [0.00, 1.50]	0.50 [0.00, 2.00]	0.13
<b>SELENA-SLEDAI 52 weeks after GC discontinuation</b>	0.00 [0.00, 2.00]	1.00 [0.00, 2.50]	0.17
<b>Achievement ratio of LLDAS 52 weeks preceding GC discontinuation</b>	22 (95.7)	37 (77.1)	0.09
<b>Achievement ratio of LLDAS 26 weeks preceding GC discontinuation</b>	22 (91.7)	40 (81.6)	0.32
<b>Achievement ratio of LLDAS on the day of GC discontinuation</b>	23 (95.8)	46 (93.9)	1
<b>Achievement ratio of LLDAS 26 weeks after GC discontinuation</b>	23 (100.0)	43 (89.6)	0.17
<b>Achievement ratio of LLDAS 52 weeks after GC discontinuation</b>	20 (90.9)	43 (91.5)	1

Values are expressed as number (%) or median [interquartile range]. BILAG = British Isles Lupus Assessment Group Index;

GC = glucocorticoid; LLDAS = lupus low disease activity state; N/A = not applicable; SLE = systemic lupus

erythematosus; SELENA-SLEDAI = Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment SLE Disease

Activity Index; PSL = prednisolone.

\*We excluded three patients (one patient with prior severe organ involvement and two patients without prior severe organ involvement) from the assessment of flare rate within 52 weeks after glucocorticoid discontinuation because of the incomplete follow-up period.

\*\*prednisolone equivalent (mg/day)