

What Is Lupus?

Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can affect the body's joints and organs. It causes the immune system to see the body's healthy cells as foreign and attack. No two cases of lupus are exactly alike. It strikes without warning, has unpredictable and sometimes fatal effects, and has no known cause or cure.

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An estimated
1.5 million
Americans
have lupus

90%
of people with lupus
are women

Women of color are
2-3 times
more likely to
develop lupus

LIVING WITH LUPUS

The severity of lupus can range from mild to life threatening. Complications can include:

- Heart attacks
- Strokes
- Seizures
- Infertility or high-risk pregnancy
- Neurological inflammation and dysfunction
- Pericarditis (inflammation of the heart and lungs)
- Kidney Failure



Average time it takes to diagnose lupus after symptoms appear

6
years



PERSONAL STORY



Audrey is a wife and the mother of three. When she was 26, she suddenly couldn't see or speak, and her arm and leg went numb.

She ended up in the ICU battling for her life. After several tests, Audrey was diagnosed with lupus. Just two months after completing chemotherapy for lupus, Audrey and her husband learned they were expecting their third child. She had an extremely challenging pregnancy, but Audrey worked with her doctor to do everything possible to protect her developing baby.



COVID-19 AND LUPUS

People with lupus are at higher risk for infections like the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. Some people with lupus may also be at risk for more serious complications from catching the coronavirus.

For updates, visit [lupus.org](https://www.lupus.org)