

# What is Lupus?

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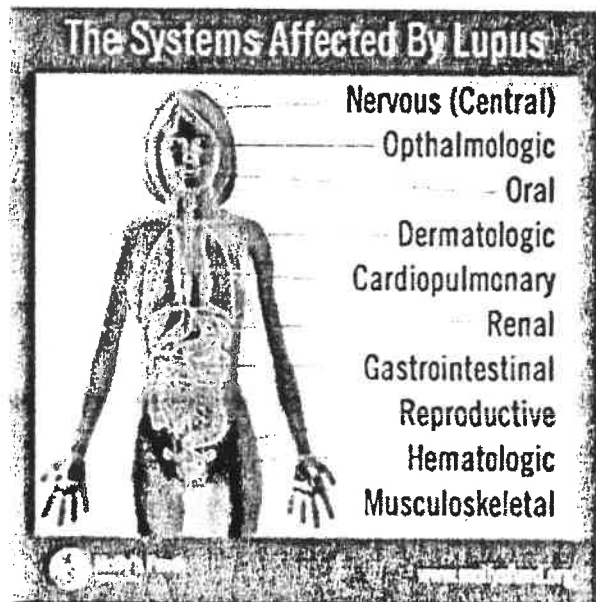
While on the surface, this may seem a simple question to answer, the very nature of lupus makes it, in fact, a very complicated one. There are some facts the medical and scientific communities can offer for certain about lupus and we hope this blog gives you the accurate information you need to understand this very complex and debilitating disease, as well as providing the tools to help share and spread awareness.



## Definition of Lupus

Lupus (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus) is a widespread and chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease that, for unknown reasons, causes the immune system to attack the body's own tissue and organs. Currently, there is no cure for lupus.

Lupus causes a wide variety of devastating symptoms. For more information on this topic, please read our blog [Lupus Symptoms and Signs](#). Lupus can affect nearly every organ and system (see graphic on left) in the body with no predictability, causing widespread infections and inflammation.



A healthy immune system protects the body against viruses, bacteria, and other foreign materials. With an autoimmune disease like lupus, the immune system loses its ability to tell the difference between foreign substances and its own cells and tissue. The immune system then makes antibodies directed against "self" and begins attacking healthy tissue.