

# Neuro-psychiatric Lupus (NPSLE)

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# **My disclosures**

#### Laurent ARNAUD is a consultant for:

Alexion, Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, BMS, Boehringer-Ingelheim, GSK, Grifols, Janssen-Cilag, LFB, Lilly, Menarini France, Medac, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche-Chugaï, UCB



# **NPSLE is considered difficult-to-treat**

#### Survey to colleagues on my twitter account @Lupusreference

**Neuropsychiatric** lupus **Refractory cytopenias Refractory lupus nephritis** Fatigue (and other type 2 symptoms) **Refractory cutaneous** lupus Transverse myelitis **Class V nephritis** Lupus (nephritis) during pregnancy Renal thrombotic microangiopathy Macrophage activation syndrome Arthralgia without arthritis

# **Impact of NPSLE on mortality**



compared to the general population

**10-YEAR MORTALITY** 16% in NPSLE 8% in SLE without NP

Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020



compared to SLE patients without NPSLE

# **Today's NPSLE agenda**

## ✓ What is NPSLE?

- ✓ How diverse are NPSLE manifestations
- ✓ How common is NPSLE among SLE patients?
- ✓ What are the typical manifestations of NPSLE?
- ✓ How do you attribute NP events to SLE (NPSLE)?
- ✓ Additional diagnostic considerations
- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?



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# **NPSLE & lupus**

# **Neuro-Psychiatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus**

NPS

# SLE is a (very) systemic disease



# SLE is a (very) systemic disease



Symptom(s) In SLE patients Doctor, I have SLE and I have ... NCLO « a neurological

or psychiatric manifestation »

# **Attribution of NP symptoms to SLE**

# Symptom(s)

In SLE patients

## Is this due to lupus ?

(versus infection, drugs, etc...)



# Symptom(s)

In SLE patients

# Is this due to lupus ?

(versus infection, drugs, etc...)

DECISION MADE BASED ON Positive clinical findings

- Objective findings? +++
- Known manifestations of SLE?
- Any other symptoms of SLE?
- Recent changes in treatment?
- Recent lack of observance?

# Symptom(s)

In SLE patients

# Is this due to lupus ?

(versus infection, drugs, etc...)

**DECISION MADE BASED ON** Positive clinical findings 🔗

- **Objective findings? +++**
- Known manifestations of SLE?
- Any other symptoms of SLE?
- **Recent changes in treatment?**
- Recent lack of observance?

Tests & imaging results 🗸



# Symptom(s)

In SLE patients

# Is this due to lupus ?

(versus infection, drugs, etc...)

DECISION MADE BASED ON Positive clinical findings

- Objective findings? +++
- Known manifestations of SLE?
- Any other symptoms of SLE?
- Recent changes in treatment?
- Recent lack of observance?

Tests & imaging results Negative findings (X)

Exclusion of differential diagnosis

# Symptom(s)

In SLE patients

# Is this due to lupus ?

(versus infection, drugs, etc...)

DECISION MADE BASED ON Positive clinical findings

- Objective findings? +++
- Known manifestations of SLE?
- Any other symptoms of SLE?
- Recent changes in treatment?
- Recent lack of observance?

Tests & imaging results Negative findings

Exclusion of differential diagnosis

#### Probabilistic reasoning **±**

 For instance: Inflammatory joint pain in a lupus patient more likely to be lupus than gout



#### **General management of symptoms in SLE** NP Symptom(s) NOT DUE No Is this due to lupus? **TO LUPUS** (versus infection, drugs, $\sqrt{4}$ Yes *etc...*) ATTRIBUTED Address the issue / refer the patient to Lupus Neuropsychiatric non-NPSLE manifestations NPSLE! NP events (primary NPSLE)

# **Today's NPSLE agenda**

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### ✓ How diverse are NPSLE manifestations

- ✓ How common is NPSLE among SLE patients?
- ✓ What are the typical manifestations of NPSLE?
- ✓ How do you attribute NP events to SLE (NPSLE)?
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- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

# **NPSLE** manifestations are VERY diverse

## ACR classification for Neuro-Psychiatric SLE (NPSLE)



@Lupusreference

# **NPSLE** manifestations are VERY diverse

# ACR classification for Neuro-Psychiatric SLE (NPSLE)



@Lupusreference

# **NPSLE** manifestations are VERY diverse

# ACR classification for Neuro-Psychiatric SLE (NPSLE)





# **NPSLE is very heterogeneous**



#### Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020

# **Today's NPSLE agenda**

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# **Today's NPSLE agenda**

## ✓ What is NPSLE?

✓ How diverse are NPSLE manifestations

- ✓ How common is NPSLE among SLE patients?
  - ✓ How common are NP events in SLE patients
  - ✓ Which proportion of NP events are attributable to SLE
- ✓ What are the typical manifestations of NPSLE?
- ✓ How do you attribute NP events to SLE (NPSLE)?
- ✓ Additional diagnostic considerations
- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

# How common are NP events in SLE?



52% with NP events

#### **1827 patients** Mean follow-up: 7.6 ± 4.6 years

#### Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020

#### SLICC: 43 academic centres in 16 countries

# Which proportion are ATTRIBUTED to SLE?

# 52% with NP events

# Which proportion are ATTRIBUTED to SLE?



Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020

# Which proportion are ATTRIBUTED to SLE?



Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020

# When are NPSLE events occuring in SLE?

2 years

First SLE manifestations NPSLE events occuring during the first 2 years RR: 6.16 (4.96, 7.66)

> Life course

Diagnosis of SLE

# When are NPSLE events occuring in SLE?



# **Today's NPSLE agenda**

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Hanly et al. SLICC cohort ARD 2020

# What types of events are reported in NPSLE?

Studies	NPSLE (p)	Total SLE	Aseptic	Cerebrovascular	Demyelinating	Headache	Movement	Myelopathy	Seizure	Acute	Anxiety	Cognitive	Mood	Psychosis
	(1)	(11)	menningitis	uisease	syndrome		uisoruei		uisoruers	confusional state	uiso/uei	uysnaletion	uisoruei	
Karimifar (2013)		100											60 (60.0%)	
Murray (2012)		694								\ \ \		/107 (15.4%)	129 (18.6%)	
Cojocaru (2010)	47	78	3 (3.8%)	8 (10.3%)		5 (6.4%)			7 (9.0%)	15 (19.2%)				9 (11.5%)
Syuto (2009)	10	68		4 (5.9%)			1 (1.5%)			1 (1.5%)		1 (1.5%)	2 (2.9%)	
Abdel-Nasser (2008)	26	32		1 (3.1%)		15 (46.9%)			4 (12.5%)	2 (6.3%)	3 (9.4%)	12 (37.5%)	19 (59.4%)	1 (3.1%)
Avcin (2008)	23	137		7 (5.1%)		22 (16.1%)	2 (1.5%)	2 (1.5%)	4 (2.9%)			12 (8.8%)	4 (2.9%)	13 (9.5%)
Fragoso-Loyo 2008	47	96		8 (8.3%)		9 (9.4%)		1 (1.0%)	16 (16.7%)	8 (8.3%)				1 (1.0%)
Hanly (2008)	133	412		14 (3.4%)								14 (3.4%)	32 (7.8%)	7 (1.7%)
Magalhaes (2007)	59	138	1 (0.7%)	18 (13.0%)				2 (1.4%)	27 (19.6%)	5 (3.6%)	3 (2.2%)		16 (11.6%)	15 (10.9%)
Steup-Beekman (2007)	19	51		8 (15.7%)		5 (9.8%)		2 (3.9%)	2 (3.9%)	1 (2.0%)		9 (17.6%)	1 (2.0%)	
Hanly (2006)	15	65		3 (4.6%)				1 (1.5%)	4 (6.2%)	5 (7.7%)		15 (23.1%)	3 (4.6%)	1 (1.5%)
Harrison (2006)	42	93	2 (2.2%)	16 (17.2%)		37 (39.8%)		1 (1.1%)	7 (7.5%)		6 (6.5%)		15 (16.1%)	16 (17.2%)
Lapteva (2006)		60										28 (46.7%)	10 (16.7%)	
Yoshio (2005)	50	70	6 (8.6%)	10 (14.3%)		2 (14.3%)	31 (44.3%)	3 (4.3%)	10 (14.3%)	9 (12.9%)	8 (11.4%)		4 (5.7%)	8 (11.4%)
Conti (2004)	17	51									16 (31.4%)		15 (29.4%)	2 (3.9%)
Mikdashi (2004)	74	130		19 (14.6%)				5 (3.8%)	6 (4.6%)			20 (15.4%)		11 (8.5%)
Sanna (2003)	185	323		47 (14.5%)	3 (0.9%)	78 (24.0%)	4 (1.2%)	4 (1.2%)	27 (8.3%)	13 (3.7%)	24 (7.4%)	35 (10.8%)	54 (16.7%)	25 (7.7%)
Mok (2001)	96	518	1 (0.2%)	25 (4.8%)	2 (0.4%)	3 (0.6%)	3 (0.6%)	11 (2.1%)	37 (7.1%)	18 (3.5%)	2 (0.4%)		8 (1.5%)	15 (2.9%)
Karassa (2000)	32	128		S (7.0%)	( 1 )				8 (6.3%)	6 (4.7%)		3 (2.3%)		3 (2.3%)
Georgescu (1997)	30	346											10 (2.9%)	8 (2.3%)
Arnett (1996)	30	394											15 (3.8%)	17 (4.3%)
Silva (1996)	42	93	9 (9.5%)	21 (23.8%)				4 (4.8%)	28 (30.9%)					28 (30.9%)
Toubi (1995)	96	196	- (-)	56 (28.6%)			1 (0.5%)	- ( )	24 (12.2%)					
West (1995)	52	66		25 (37.9%)		1 (1.5%)	1 (1.5%)	3 (4.5%)	9 (13.6%)	3 (4.5%)			5 (7.6%)	3 (4.5%)
Noiima (1992)	32	91				- ()		- ( /	7 (7.7%)				7 (7.7%)	18 (19.8%)
Teh (1992)	39	116							6 (5.2%)				10 (8.6%)	13 (11.3%)
Schneebaum (1991)	82	2/59							0 (012/0)				8 (3.0%)	29 (10.8%)
Costallat 1990	16	66						1(1.5%)	8 (12.1%)	2(30%)			0 (0.0,0)	2(3.0%)
Long (1990)	50	98	0(00)					1 (1.5/0)	0 (12.170)	2 (3.0/0)		54 (55 1%)		2 (3.670)
Alarcon-Segovia (1989)		500	5 (0.0)	49 (9.8%)		66 (13.2%)	1 (0.2%)	4 (0.8%)				51 (55.170)		
Ruestein 1981	27	45		10 (0.0/0)		50 (13.2/0)	4 (8 9%)	2(4.4%)	8 (17.8%)					
Bresnihan (1979)	12	15				12 (80.0%)	3 (20.0%)	~ (-1.1/0)	0 (17.0%)	4 (26.7%)			4 (26.7%)	4 (26.7%)

#### Highly variable frequency

#### Ho et al. Autoimmun Rev 2016

# What is the frequency of NPSLE manifestations

Neuropsychiatric manifestations of the peripheral nervous system in patients with SLE.

Studies	NPSLE (n)	Total SLE (n)	Acute inflammatory demyelinating polyradiculoneuropathy	Autonomic disorder	Mononeuropathy	Myasthenia gravis	Neuropathy, cranial	Plexoathy	Polyneuropathy
Syuto (2009)	10	68			96122	D			1 (1.5%)
Fragoso-Loyo (2008)	47	96			3 (3.1%)				1 (1.0%)
Steup-Beekman (2007)	19	51						1 (2.0%)	1 (2.0%)
Hanly (2006)	15	65			3 (4.6%)		4 (6.2%)		
Harrison (2006)	42	93	2 (2.2%)		8 (8.6%)		2 (2.2%)		
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Sanna (2003)	185	323	2 (0.6%)		6 (1.8%)	5 (1.5%)	5 (1.5%)		9 (2.8%)
Mok (2001)	96	518			2 (0.4%)		4 (0.8%)		1 (0.2%)
Karassa (2000)	32	128	3 (2.3%)				3 (2.3%)		
Silva (1996)	42	93					26 (28.6%)		
Bluestein (1981)	27	45					3 (6.7%)		
Bresnihan (1979)	12	15	N D	2 (13.3%)			0 (0.0)		

Highly variable frequency



#### Ho et al. Autoimmun Rev 2016
### What types of events are reported in NPSLE?

Frequent ****	Cognitive dysfunction Mood disorder Anxiety Headache	6.6-80 (mild) (1-3% (severe) 7.4-55 6.4-40 12.2-28.3
Common ***	Seizures Cerebrovascular disease	7.0–20 8.0–15
Infrequent *	Psychosis Acute confusional status Mononeuropathy Polyneuropathy Myelopathy Demyelinating syndrome	0.6-11 0.9-7 0.9-6.9 1.5-5.4 0.9-3.9 0.9-2.7
Rare -	Aseptic meningitis Autonomic disorder AIDP (GBS) Cranial neuropathy Movement disorders (chorea) Myasthenia gravis Plexopathy	0.3–2.7 0.08–1.3 0.08–1.2 1.0 0.9 0.2 NR

Govoni et al. Rheumatology 2020 | Schwartz et al. Nat Rev Rheumatol 2019

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- ✓ How do you attribute NP events to SLE (NPSLE)? MOST DIFFICULT QUESTION
- ✓ Additional diagnostic considerations

✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?



### What types of events are reported in NPSLE?

Frequent ****	Cognitive dysfunction Mood disorder VERY COMMON Anxiety Headache IN THE GENERAL POPULATION	6.6-80 (mi\d) (1-3% (severe) 7.4-55 6.4-40 12.2-28.3
Common ***	Seizures Cerebrovascular disease	7.0–20 8.0–15
Infrequent *	Psychosis Acute confusional status Mononeuropathy Polyneuropathy Myelopathy Demyelinating syndrome	0.6-11 0.9-7 0.9-6.9 1.5-5.4 0.9-3.9 0.9-2.7
Rare -	Aseptic meningitis Autonomic disorder AIDP (GBS) Cranial neuropathy Movement disorders (chorea) Myasthenia gravis Plexopathy	0.3-2.7 0.08-1.3 0.08-1.2 1.0 0.9 0.2 NR

Govoni et al. Rheumatology 2020 | Schwartz et al. Nat Rev Rheumatol 2019

### Validity of the New American College of Rheumatology Criteria for Neuropsychiatric Lupus Syndromes: A Population-Based Evaluation

Table 3. Number of American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria and revised           criteria for neuropsychiatric SLE among patient and control groups					
Patients	Controls	OR (95% CI)	Specificity		

]	Patients	Controls	OR (95% CI)	Specificity
ACR criteria for NPSLE	C			
≥1	42 (91%)	(25 (56%)	9.5 (2.2-40.8)	0.46
≥2	37	10	7.8 (2.7–22.0)	0.78
≥3	25	2	24.0 (3.3–1774)	0.96
≥4	10	_	00	1.00
Revised criteria				
>0	21	3	7.0 (2.1–23.5)	0.93
> 1	9	0	00	1.00
> 2	6	0	00	1.00
> 3	2	0	00	1.00
A				

MORE THAN 50% of controls (general population) had at least 1 criteria for NPSLE

Ainiala et al. Arthritis Care Res 2001

### Some NP MANIFESTATIONS cannot be attributed confidently to SLE

- Headaches
  - Anxiety
- Mild depression
- Mild cognitive impairment (deficit in <3 of 8 domains)</li>
- Polyneuropathy without electrophysiological confirmation

# Lupus headache

### Lupus headache is NOT just headache in a patient with lupus

Disease activity index	Definition		
SLEDAI-2K	Severe, persistent headache; may be migrainous, but <b>must be nonresponsive to narcotic analgesia</b> .		
SELENA-SLEDAI	Severe, persistent headache; may be migrainous, but <b>must be nonresponsive to narcotic analgesia</b> .		
BILAG-2004	<ul> <li>Severe lupus headache (unremitting): disabling headache unresponsive to narcotic analgesia &amp; lasting ≥ 3 days</li> <li>Headache from intracranial hypertension</li> </ul>		
ECLAM	Recently developed, persistent or recurrent. Poorly respons to the most currently used drugs but <b>partially or totally</b> <b>responsive to corticosteroids</b>		

There are many « mimickers » of NPSLE









# Case #2 | the « brain-fog »







# From NPSLE to Neuromyelitis optica (Devic's)

### What is neuromyelitis optica?

- Optic neuritis or myelitis (simultaneous < 10% of cases)</li>
- Isolated (or associated with SLE)
- Proposed diagnostic criteria for NMO:
  - optic neuritis / acute myelitis + at least 2 of:
    - Contiguous spinal cord MRI on ≥3 levels
    - brain MRI ≠ multiple sclerosis;
    - NMO-IgG (Anti-aquaporin-4 Ab) (+ aPL)
- Poor prognosis:
  - High relapse rate with poor prognosis when relapsing
  - Monocular blindness or loss of ambulatory capacity in >50% within 5 years





![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

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When possible, try to confirm NP event using an objective method

### Attribution to SLE

Document the involvement of CNS/PNS CNS: Brain MRI + CSF +/- brain-SPECT +/- EEG PNS: ENMG +/- CSF

(can be normal)

Search for confounding and favouring factors Alternative diagnosis? (e.g. infection, metabolic) Change in medications? Previous NPSLE involvement?

(can be present but play no role)

Ongoing SLE activity in other organs Early in SLE history? Flare in another organ ? Serology (dsDNA, C3) (isolated NPSLE flare are not uncommon)

#### + Response to treatment | Reassessment/reattribution if needed

#### **Typical limbic encephalitis**

![](_page_54_Picture_2.jpeg)

10.1016/j.nurt.2007.01.007.

### **Typical limbic encephalitis**

![](_page_55_Picture_2.jpeg)

10.1016/j.nurt.2007.01.007.

### **Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES)**

![](_page_56_Picture_2.jpeg)

doi:10.7759/cureus.2686

![](_page_57_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

https://radiopaedia.org/images/3014589

![](_page_60_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Picture_2.jpeg)

### Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy (PML) ≠ NPSLE

https://radiopaedia.org/images/3014589

![](_page_61_Picture_1.jpeg)

https://radiopaedia.org/images/3014589

# **Cerebrospinal fluid analysis in SLE**

### **CSF** analysis is crucial to rule out an infection +++++

Reference	Number of patients with CNS involvement	Elevated CSF	% Oligoclonal bands
Tan et al. Clin Rheumatol 2018	76	84%	
Ernerudh et al. JNNP 1985	17		
Seibold. Semin Arthritis 1982	11 (of 17)	63%	81%
Hirohata. Arch Intern Med 1985	13		
Winfield et ai. Am J Med 1983	19	-	42%

Poor quality of the literature / intratechal synthesis is commonly seen

- HMPAO-SPECT SEVERE hypofixation of tracer in:
- Inner temporal regions (bilaterally)

LIMBIC ENCEPHALITIS

Anti-NMDAR and anti-neurons antibodies were negative

![](_page_63_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

Attribution to \$1

@Lupusreference

When possible, try to confirm NP event using an objective method

Document the involvement of CNS/PNS CNS: Brain MRI + CSF +/- brain-SPECT +/- EEG PNS: ENMG +/- CSF (can be normal)

Search for confounding and favouring factors Alternative diagnosis? (e.g. infection, metabolic) Change in medications? Previous NPSLE involvement?

(can be present but play no role)

Ongoing SLE activity in other organs Early in SLE history? Flare in another organ ? Serology (dsDNA, C3) (isolated NPSLE flare are not uncommon)

### + Response to treatment | Reassessment/reattribution if needed

Cognitive Disfunction	Substance abuse		tribution	of pouropevebiatric
ev	Medication (steroids, sedatives)			or neuropsychiatric
Confounding	History of learning disabilities			Weight (points)
Tin factors	History of head injury			
	Other primary neurologic and psy	ychiatric disorders		0 1.5
•	Metabolic disturbances, particula	arly uremia and diabetes		2.5
Mii •	Antiphospholipid antibody syndr	ome		0
•	Coexisting emotional distress, fat	igue, and pain.		3
Cognitive dysfunction Favouring factors Education level Age	(2)(25)(26)(27)(28) (29)(30) (22)(31)(32)(33)(34)(35) (22)(30)(36)(37)(38) (11)(39) (40)(37)(41) (40)(2)(42)(30)(41)(43)	• Age< 50 years • Response to IS or GC Rx	(EP) (EP) (EP)	SLEDAI ≥16 SDI ≥1.0 Libman sacks endocarditis (aPL+) At least secondary school
		Bor	toluzzi et a	al. Rheumatology 201

![](_page_66_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

@Lupusreference

When possible, try to confirm NP event using an objective method

Attribution to SLE

Document the involvement of CNS/PNS CNS: Brain MRI + CSF +/- brain-SPECT +/- EEG PNS: ENMG +/- CSF (can be normal)

Search for confounding and favouring factors Alternative diagnosis? (e.g. infection, metabolic) Change in medications? Previous NPSLE involvement? (can be present but play no role) Ongoing SLE activity in other organs Early in SLE history? Flare in another organ ? Serology (dsDNA, C3) (isolated NPSLE flare are not uncommon)

### + Response to treatment | Reassessment/reattribution if needed

### Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patier

involvement of CNS CNS: Brain ENMG +/- CSF **PN** (can be normal)

We done all this, what do look what do look what do look what do look where all this, where do look **Previous NPSLE involvement?** (can be present but play no role)

**Ongoing SLE activity** in other organs **Early in SLE history?** Flare in another organ? Serology (dsDNA, C3) (isolated NPSLE flare are not uncommon)

### + Response to treatment | Reassessment/reattribution if needed

# Development and validation of a new algorithm for attribution of neuropsychiatric events in systemic lupus erythematosus

	Weight (points)
<ul> <li>Time of the onset of NP event with respect to SLE clinical onset:</li> <li>Before (&gt;6 months before SLE onset)</li> <li>Concomitant (within 6 months of SLE onset)</li> <li>After (&gt;6 months after SLE onset)</li> </ul>	0 1.5 2.5
<ul> <li>Minor or not specific NP events (as defined by Ainiala et al.)</li> <li>Present</li> <li>Absent</li> </ul>	???? 3
<ul> <li>Confounding factors or not SLE-related associations (ACR glossary)</li> <li>None or not applicable</li> <li>Present (1 confounding factor)</li> <li>Present (&gt;1 confounding factor)</li> </ul>	2.5 1 0
Additional (or favouring) factors <ul> <li>None or not applicable</li> <li>Present (1 additional or favouring factor)</li> <li>Present (&gt;1 additional or favouring factor)</li> </ul>	0 1 2

**NP event related (>7) or not related (<3) to SLE** Bortoluzzi et al. Rheumatology 2015

Development and validation of a new algorithm for attribution of neuropsychiatric events in systemic lupus erythematosus

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<ul> <li>Time of the onset of NP event with respect to SLE clinical onset:</li> <li>Before (&gt;6 months before SLE onset)</li> <li>Concomitant (within 6 months of SLE onset)</li> <li>After (&gt;6 months after SLE onset)</li> </ul>	0 1.5 2.5
<ul> <li>Minor or not specific NP events (as defined we decide</li> <li>Present</li> <li>Absent</li> </ul>	??? 3
<ul> <li>Confounding factor</li> <li>None or</li> <li>Present (actor)</li> <li>Present (actor)</li> <li>Present (actor)</li> </ul>	2.5 1 0
Additional (or favouring) factors <ul> <li>None or not applicable</li> <li>Present (1 additional or favouring factor)</li> <li>Present (&gt;1 additional or favouring factor)</li> </ul>	0 1 2

**NP event related (>7) or not related (<3) to SLE** Bortoluzzi et al. Rheumatology 2015

![](_page_71_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Nikolopoulos...Bertsias. Exp Rev Clin Immunol 2021
### **Attribution of NP events to SLE (NPSLE)**



Nikolopoulos...Bertsias. Exp Rev Clin Immunol 2021

### ✓ What is NPSLE?

- ✓ How diverse are NPSLE manifestations
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- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

We can't perform an MRI and do CSF analysis in ALL SLE patients reporting NP manifestations

52%

with NP events

### ✓ What is NPSLE?

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- ✓ How do you attribute NP events to SLE (NPSLE)?
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  - Minor complaint vs significant NP involvement
- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

#### Lupus Fogand Memory Problems

By R. Morgan Griffin

#### f 🗾 🦻

#### FROM THE WEBMD ARCHIVES (1)

Lupus fog -- the forgetfulness and fuzzy-headed feeling that can come with lupus (a) (systemic lupus erythematosus, or SLE) – can be one of the most frustrating symptoms of the condition.

The term lupus fog means more than memory problems. It also refers to cognitive difficulties, such as trouble helping your child with homework, or writing a grocery list.

"It can really make your whole world fall apart," says Janet Foley Orosz, PhD, a public policy expert in Ohio who has struggled with lupus fog for almost 20 years. She's now collaborating on a web site and vocational program designed to help others with the condition.

There's no cure for lupus, so there's no cure for lupus fog either. But there are ways to work around your problems with concentration and memory. Here's what you need to know.

#### What Is Lupus Fog?

Lupus fog is a general name for the cognitive impairments that often appear with lupus, including concentration and memory problems, confusion, and difficulty expressing yourself. These cognitive problems are often worse during flares.

The good news: Lupus fog doesn't usually get progressively worse, like dementia or Alzheimer's disease, says Lisa Fitzgerald, MD, a rheumatologist at the Lupus Center of Excellence at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. Instead, memory issues will probably wax and wane, just like other lupus symptoms.

The exact cause of lupus fog is hard to pin down, experts say. In some cases, lupus can damage cells in the brain, leading directly to cognitive problems. However, in most cases other factors play a role, including fatigue, stress, and depression. Lupus fog is sometimes worse in people who also have fibromyalgia. Although it's possible that side effects from drugs such as NSAIDs or steroids could worsen lupus fog, experts say that switching medicines rarely resolves the problem.

https://www.webmd.com/lupus/features/lupus-fog-memory-problems#1 (Accessed 13th of Oct 2020)

### ACR criteria for Neuro-Psychiatric SLE (NPSLE)



#### **Frequency of CNS-involving NPSLE manifestations in various cohorts**

Ainiala,	Ainiala,	Sanna,	Brey, 2002 <sup>9</sup> ( <i>n</i> =128)	Afeltra, 2003 <sup>10</sup> ( <i>n</i> =61)	Costallat, 2001 <sup>11</sup> ( <i>n</i> =527)	Hanly, 2010 <sup>12</sup> ( <i>n</i> =1206)		Mok,	Verrava University,	Multiple italian	Faria,	Steup- Beekman,
Ack Nomenciature	( <i>n</i> =46)	( <i>n</i> =323)				Model A	Model B	(1-282)	21/14 <sup>15</sup> (N=228)	Centers, 2014 <sup>15</sup> (n=221)	( <i>n</i> =55)	2013 <sup>14</sup> (n=102)
Aseptic Meningitis	1 (2)				2 (0.4)	4 (2.7)	4 (1.6)	1 (0.4)	3 (0.7)	0	6 (10.9)	3 (3)
Cerebrovascular Disease	7 (15)	47 (14.5)	2 (2)	15 (24)	13 (2.5)	18 (12.1)	40 (15.5)	21 (7.4)	68 (16.2)	61 (14.3)	16 (29)	44 (43)
Demyelinating Syndrome	1 (2)	3 (0.9)			1 (0.2)	1 (0.7)	3 (1.2)	0	3 (0.7)	4 (0.9)	1 (1.8)	
Headache	25 (54)	78 (24)	73 (57)	13 (21)	25 (62.5) (n=40)	0	0	8 (2.8)	116 (27.7)	95 (22.2)	4 (7.2)	23 (23)
Movement Disorder (Chorea)	1 (2)	4 (1.2)	1 (1)		4 (0.76)	4 (2.7)	5 (1.9)	2 (0.7)	7 (1.7)	3 (0.7)	1 (1.8)	5 (5)
Myelopathy		4 (1.2)		2 (3)	6 (1)	5 (3.4)	10 (3.9)	6 (2.1)	1 (0.2)	4 (0.9)	2 (3.6)	6 (6)
Seizure Disorders	4 (9)	27 (8.3)	21 (16)	7 (11)	39 (7)	39 (26.2)	54 (20.9)	17 (6)	19 (4.5)	61 (14.3)	10 (5.5)	28 (27)
Acute Confusional State	3 (7)	12 (3.7)			15 (3)	11 (7.4)	17 (6.6)	10 (3.5)	7 (1.7)	13 (3)		7 (7)
Anxiety Disorder	6 (13)	24 (7.4)	27 (21)	4 (6)	28 (70) (n=40)	0	0	3 (1.1)	15 (3.6)	28 (6.6)		1 (1)
Cognitive Dysfunction – Minor – Moderate: – Severe	37/46 (81) 26/37 (70) 7/37 (19) 4/37 (11)	35 (10.8)	53/67 (79) 29/67 (43) 20/67 (30) 4/67 (6)	32/61 (52)	<sup>32 (52)</sup>	<sup>8 (5.4)</sup> <b>m 5</b>	22 (8.5)	10 (3.5) 80%	61 (14.6)	<sup>56 (13.1)</sup>	6 (10.9) nts	27 (26)
Mood Disorder	20 (43)	54 (16.7)	25 (20)	17 (27)	30 (75) ( <i>n</i> =40)	18 (12.1)	47 (18.1)	10 (3.5)	67 (16)	49 (11.5)		8 (8)
Psychosis		25 (7.7)	6 (5)		28 (5)	8 (5.4)	13 (5)	15 (5.3)	13 (3.1)	17 (4)	5 (9.1)	6 (6)

**Cognitive dyfunction is <u>the most common NPSLE event</u>** 

Faria et al. Open Rheumatology 2017

## **Attribution of NP events to SLE (NPSLE)**

### Some NP MANIFESTATIONS cannot be attributed confidently to SLE

- Headaches
  - Anxiety
- Mild depression
- Mild cognitive impairment (deficit in <3 of 8 domains)</li>
- Polyneuropathy without electrophysiological confirmation

## Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

### Is this pathologic and significant ?

#### => Usually easy for neurological manifestations

=> Often more difficult to psychiatric manifestations e.g. brain fog, mood disorders

# FOUR LITTLE « SECRETS »

- I always try to get some <u>feedback</u> from family members or partner
- I'm trying to see if <u>coping</u> solutions are used

(e.g. post-it, alarms on telephone, etc ...)

- Is this fluctuating or permanent/worsening
  - is there any confounder (eg. Depression)?

#### There is <u>NO SPECIFIC PATTERN</u> of cognitive dysfunction in SLE\*



\*Hanly et al. Arthritis Rheum 2019

### There is <u>NO SPECIFIC PATTERN</u> of cognitive dysfunction in SLE\*

- Abnormal tests may include:
  - Cognitive slowing
  - Decreased attention
  - Impaired working memory
  - Executive dysfunction (e.g., difficulty with multitasking, organization, planning)
- Formal attribution to SLE remains very difficult in case of mild cognitive impairement (<3 impaired domains\*\*)



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Computerized testing

\*Hanly et al. Arthritis Rheum 2019 \*\*Ainiala et al. Arthritis Care Res 2001

NAME OF TEST	TIME	DETAILS	REFERENCE
SELF-ASSESSMENT BY	PATIENT		
Cognitive Symptom Inventory (CSI)	3-5 mins	Not correlated with objective neuro-psychological testing	Hanly et al. J Rheum 2012
Perceived Deficits Questionnaire 5-Item (PDQ-5)	3-5 mins	Mean value similar with/without cognitive impairment Only a low (negative) correlation with HVLT-R	Nantes & Touma. J Rheum 2017

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EXTERNAL-ASSESSMENT BY PHYSICIAN						
Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA)	10-15 mins	PPV and LR+ similar to MMSE but NPV higher	Nantes & Touma. J Rheum 2017			

Mini Mental State	10-15 mins	NPV lower than MoCA.	Nantes & Touma.
Examination (MMSE)		Tends to miss many patients with mild Cl	J Rheum 2017
Hopkins Verbal Learning Test-Revised (HVLT-R)	25–30 min	Focuses on verbal learning and memory. Requires trained personnel (administration/Interpretation)	Julian et al. Arthritis Care Res 2012

#### **Montreal Cognitive Assessment**



Scores on the MoCA range from zero to 30, with a score ≥26 generally considered normal. IMPORTANTLY, it may fail to identify subtle higher-level cognitive impairement.

								-
ATTENTION	Read list of digits (1 digi	it/sec.). Si Si	ubject has to re ubject has to re	peat them in peat them in	the forward the backwar	order d order	[]21854 []742	_/2
Read list of letters. T	he subject must tan with b	his hand at e	each letter A. N	$\alpha$ noints if $\geq 2e$	errors			
			[ ] FBA	CMNAAJ	KLBAFA	KDEAA	AJAMOFAAB	_/1
Serial 7 subtraction s	tarting at 100 [	] 93 40	[] 86 or 5 correct subtra	[ ] ; actions: <b>3 pts</b> , :	79 2 or 3 correct: <b>2</b>	[ ] 72 p <b>ts</b> , 1 com	[ ] 65 rect: <b>1 pt</b> , o correct: <b>0 pt</b>	_/3
LANGUAGE Repeat : I only know that John is the one to help today. [] The cat always hid under the couch when dogs were in the room. []					_/2			
Fluency / Name	maximum number of wo	rds in one n	ninute that beg	in with the lef	tter F	[]_	(N ≥ 11 words)	/1
ABSTRACTION	Similarity between e.g. t	banana - ora	nge = fruit [	] train – bi	cycle [ ]	watch - r	ruler	_/2
DELAYED RECALL	Has to recall words	FACE	VELVET	CHURCH	DAISY	RED	Points for	/5
	WITH NO CUE	11	[]	[1]	[ [ ] ]	[1]	UNCUED recall only	
	Category cue						recail only	
Optional	Multiple choice cue							
ORIENTATION	[]Date [	] Month	[]Year	[]D	ay [	] Place	[ ] City	_/6
© Z.Nasreddine MD Version November 7, 2004 Normal ≥ 26 / 30 TOTAL					_/30			

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#### @Lupusreference

#### The ACR-SLE neuropsychological battery (1 to 2 hours)

- should be the « minimum » North American Adult Reading Test (to estimate IQ) ٠
- Digit Symbol Substitution Test .
- Trail-Making Test (Parts A & B) ٠
- Stroop Color and Word Test ٠
- California Verbal Learning Test ٠
- Rey-Osterrieth Complex Figure Test (with delayed recall)
- WAIS III Letter--Number Sequencing ٠
- Controlled Oral Word Association Test (FAS) .
- **Animal Naming** •
- **Finger Tapping**

Not always reimbursed by insurance

Arthritis Rheum 1999 ACR Ad Hoc Committee on NPSLE Nomenclature

confimatory tests

#### VALIDITY EVIDENCE SUPPORTS THE USE OF AUTOMATED NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT METRICS AS A SCREENING TOOL FOR COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT

Duration: 20 to 40 mins



**Tayer-Shifman et al. Arthritis Care Res 2020** 

### ✓ What is NPSLE?

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## Attribution of NP events to SLE (NPSLE)

### Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

@Lupusreference

When possible, try to confirm NP event using an objective method

#### Attribution to SLE

Document the involvement of CNS/PNS CNS: Brain MRI + CSF +/- brain-SPECT +/- EEG PNS: ENMG +/- CSF

(can be normal)

Search for confounding and favouring factors Alternative diagnosis? (e.g. infection, metabolic) Change in medications? Previous NPSLE involvement?

(can be present but play no role)

Ongoing SLE activity in other organs Early in SLE history? Flare in another organ ? Serology (dsDNA, C3) (isolated NPSLE flare are not uncommon)

#### + Response to treatment | Reassessment/reattribution if needed

#### But occasionally...



10.1594/ecr2014/C-1939

#### WHITE-MATTER HYPERINTENSITIES



VERY common !!!!!!

Twenty-year brain magnetic resonance imaging follow-up study in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: Factors associated with accrual of damage and central nervous system involvement

Distribution of MRI features at baseline and at follow-up.

MRI features		Baseline MRI		Foilow-up MRi
MRI abnormalities		16 (53.3)	R (-	24 (80.0)
WMHIs		15 (50.0)		21 (70.0)
Frontal/parietal		10 (33.3)		17 (56.7)
Temporal/occip	ital	2 (6.7)		7 (23.3)
Basal ganglia		4 (13.3)		6 (20.0)
Periventricular		9 (30.0)		16 (53.3)
Cerebellar/brain	stem	1 (3.3)		6 (20.0)
Cerebral atrophy <sup>a</sup>		5 (16.7)		10 (33.3)
Mild <sup>b</sup>		3 (10.0)		6 (20.0)
<b>Moderate</b> <sup>b</sup>		2 (6.7)		3 (10.0)
Severe <sup>b</sup>		0		1 (3.3)
Parenchymal defects		2 (6.7)		6 (20.0)
mMSS <sup>c</sup>		1 (0-3)		2 (2–5)

#### WHITE-MATTER HYPERINTENSITIES

BASELINE 50% of MRI

**20 years LATER** 

70% !!!!

Piga et al. Autoimmun Rev 2015

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Based on the literature Progression of WMHIs Is related to:

- aPL+
- General CVRF
- Disease activity
- Baseline damage

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Based on the literature Progression of WMHIs Is related to:

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Is associated with:

- New NPSLE events
- Cognitive impairement

Piga et al. Autoimmun Rev 2015

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Based on the literature Progression of WMHIs Is related to:

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Treatment to be discussed:

- Aspirin for primary prev
- CVRF management
- Control disease activity

Piga et al. Autoimmun Rev 2015

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  - ✓ The role of brain imagery (MRI)
  - ✓ The role of Cerebrospinal fluid analysis
  - ✓ The role of auto-antibodies
- ✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

## **CSF** analysis in **SLE**

#### **CSF** analysis is crucial to rule out an infection ++++

Reference	Number of patients with CNS involvement	Elevated CSF	% Oligoclonal bands
Tan et al. Clin Rheumatol 2018	76	84%	
Ernerudh et al. JNNP 1985	17		
Seibold. Semin Arthritis 1982	11 (of 17)	63%	81%
Hirohata. Arch Intern Med 1985	13		
Winfield et ai. Am J Med 1983	19	-	42%

Poor quality of the literature / intratechal synthesis is commonly seen

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✓ The role of auto-antibodies

✓ What is the treatment of NPSLE?

# Which autoantibodies are relevant in NPSLE?

A meta-analysis of serum and cerebrospinal fluid autoantibodies in neuropsychiatric systemic lupus erythematosus



For NPSLE vs SLE

Ho et al. Autoimmun Rev 2016

# Shall I search for autoantibodies in the CSF?

#### Auto-antibodies should be searched for in the blood AND in the CSF

Sample type	Auto-antibodies	Number of studies	Pooled OR (95% CI)
Mood disorder	Anti-ribosomal P	1	0.27 (0.01–5.27)
Psychosis	Anti-ribosomal P	1.	1.73(0.37-8.05)
Cerebrovascular disease	Anti-ribosomal P	1	0.10(0.01–1.82)
Seizure disorders	Total		21.65 (4.62–101.49)
	Anti-neuronal 🗆 🔪	1	10.27 (1.14–92.26)
	Anti-ribosomal P	1	45.00 (5.11–395.99)
Acute confusional state	Anti-ribosomal	1	36.36 (4.11–321.35)
Myelopathy	Anti-neuronal	1	5.73(0.26–126.43)
Headache	Anti-ribosomal P	1	0.51(0.02–11.06)
Movernent disorder	Anti-ribosomal P	1	21.85(1.07–445.32)
	Anti-neuronal	1	0.32(0.03–3.31)
	Total	2	2.36(0.04–148.28)
Aseptic meningitis	Anti-ribosomal P	1	3.00(0.55–16.38)

Anti-ribo P + anti-neurons / could be interesting markers in the CSF

Ho et al. Autoimmun Rev 2016

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# Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

# Neuro-psychiatric manifestations in SLE patients

# Is this significant?








## **Treating NPSLE according to its pathogenesis**

Pathogenic mecanism	Treatment	Delay of action	PRO's	CON's
Inflammatory & Immune	Glucocorticoids	Very fast	Very efficient	Long-term toxicity
	Cyclophosphamide	10-15 days	Potent	Long-term toxicity
	MMF	Weeks to months	Oral treatment	Delay of action Well suited for maintenance
	Rituximab	Weeks to months	Data available for refractory NPSLE	Delay of action
Thrombetic Ischaemic	Aspirin	Immediate	Well-suited for small vessels	Risk of bleeding
	Anticoagulants	Immediate	Well suited for APS	Risk of bleeding

### **Treating NPSLE according to its pathogenesis**



### Treating NPSLE according to its pathogenesis

Brain histopathology in patients with systemic lupus erythematosus: identification of lesions associated with clinical neuropsychiatric lupus syndromes and the role of complement





#### (Thrombotic) vasculopathy is very common in NPSLE

#### Cohen et al. Rheumatology 2017













Substance	IC <sub>025</sub>	Substance	IC <sub>025</sub>	Substa
Procainamide	7.48	Golimumab	1.22	Interfe
Hydralazine	6.63	Esomeprazole	1.21	
Aesculus extract	4.98	Flecainide	1.18	Riocigi EFIDEIVITOLOV
Minocycline	4.75	Epoprostenol	1.17	Selexip
Ethosuximide	4.60	Estrogens conjugated, medroxyprogesterone	1.16	Drug-in
Quinidine	3.43	Folic acid	1.15	Electro
Infliximab	3.39	Desoximetasone	1.12	Phenel Chandle
Tocainide	3.32	Macitentan	1.11	Lansop
Acebutolol	3.06	Treprostinil	1.11	Perphe pharma
Corticotropin	2.92	Romiplostim	1.09	
Phthalylsulfathiazole	2.79	Etanercept	1.07	Fluoxe
Labetalol	2.57	Celiprolol	1.00	Anastra Laurent Arna
Penicillamine	2.55	Propafenone	0.97	Cevime
Methyldopa	2.53	Ethinylestradiol, etonogestrel	0.94	Bisopre François Cha
Propylthiouracil	2.45	Hepatitis a vaccine, hepatitis B vaccine	0.88	Chlorp Joan Sibilia
HHR	2.40	Oxybate sodium	0.87	Medro: Jean Sibilia,
Terbinafine	2.33	Hydrochlorothiazide, telmisartan	0.83	Pindolol
Sulfasalazine	2.29	Alendronic acid	0.81	Cinnarizine
Disopyramide	2.24	Hydrochlorothiazide, triamterene	0.81	Vaccines
Carbamazepine	2.07	Interferon beta-1a	0.79	Blood substitutes and perfusion solut
Hepatitis b vaccine	1.96	Pravastatin	0.78	Omeprazole
Ambrisentan	1.95	Lamotrigine	0.77	Valproic acid
Dihydralazine	1.91	Ticlopidine	0.17	Cyproterone, ethinylest adiol
Lovastatin	1.72	Hydrochlorothiazide, methyldopa	0.75	Captopril
Bosentan	1.70	Oxprenolol	0.75	Imiquimed
Primidone	1.68	Eculizumab	0.70	isotzetinoin
Adalimumab	1.66	Atenolol	0.65	Teriparatide
Thiamazole	1.60	Fluvasta\in	0.60	Diltiazem
HPV vaccine	1.59	Interferon alpha	0.60	Nitrofurantoin
Certolizumab pegol	1.58	Pregabalin	0.60	Cetirizine
Carteolol	1.52	Altizide, spironclactore	0.58	Interferon alpha-2b
Oxcarbazepine	1.52	Rofecskib	0.58	Denosumab
Practolol	1.41	Gentiorozil	0.54	Alprenolol
Abatacept	1.40	Mexiletine	0.54	Fosinopril
Propranolol	1.40	Prazosin	0.54	Simvastatin
Lyme disease vaccine	1.39	Isoniazid	0.52	Carbimazole
Leflunomide	1.38	Ethinylestradiol, levonorgestrel	0.51	Nomegestrol
Estrogens conjugated	1.35	Griseofulvin	0.51	-
Mesalazine	1.27	Iloprost	0.51	
Phenytoin	1.24	Efalizumab	0.48	
Folloamato	1 22			

#### Systemic lupus erythematosus

#### GICAL SCIENCE

6.31 0.29 0.27 ons 0.26 0.26 0.25 0.21 0.20 0.17 0.16 0.15 0.14

> 0.13 0.12 0.11

0.07 0.06

0.04 0.03 0.01

0.01

#### duced systemic lupus: revisiting the everg spectrum of the disease using the WHO covigilance database

aud,<sup>1,2</sup> Philippe Mertz,<sup>1,2</sup> Pierre-Edouard Gavand,<sup>2,3</sup> Thierry Martin,<sup>2,3</sup> asset,<sup>4</sup> Martine Tebacher-Alt,<sup>5</sup> Aude Lambert,<sup>5</sup> Charlotte Muller,<sup>5</sup> <sup>,2</sup> Bénédicte Lebrun-Vignes,<sup>6</sup> Joe-Elie Salem<sup>6</sup>



**Beware of « lupus-aggravating » drugs** Ethosuximide (Zarontin<sup>®</sup>) Carbamazepine (Tegretol<sup>®</sup>) => In SLE, choose Valproate first

Arnaud et al. ARD 2019

# Let's keep an open mind 🙂

# Value of multidisciplinary reassessment in attribution of neuropsychiatric events to systemic lupus



It is very important to reassess whether it is NPSLE

Magro-Checa et al. Rheumatology 2017



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