

Priority Areas – Lupus

Lupus is a chronic autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body (skin, joints, and/or organs). "Chronic" means the **signs and symptoms** tend to last longer than six weeks and often for many years.

In lupus, something goes wrong with the immune system, which is the part of the body that fights off viruses, bacteria, and germs ("foreign invaders," like the flu). Normally our immune systems produce proteins called "antibodies" which protect the body from these invaders.

"Autoimmunity" means your immune system cannot tell the difference between these foreign invaders and your body's healthy tissues ("auto" means "self"). As a result, it creates autoantibodies that attack and destroy healthy tissue.

These autoantibodies cause inflammation, pain, and damage in various parts of the body.

- The [signs and symptoms](#) may last for years.
- In lupus, the immune system fails to fight off viruses, bacteria and germs.
- Normally our immune systems produce proteins called "antibodies" that protect us.
- [Autoimmunity](#) means your immune system cannot tell the difference between foreign invaders and your body's healthy tissues ("auto" means "self"). So, it creates autoantibodies that attack and destroy healthy tissue.
- These autoantibodies cause inflammation, pain and damage in various parts of the body.
- [COVID-19 and Lupus](#), Lupus Foundation of America