Abstract

The intensity of the clinical manifestations of SLE may vary among different groups of patients, which could range from mild rashes and arthritis to debilitating fever, fatigue, arthralgia; and to severe organ failure and life-threatening disease in worst cases ***(Askanase, et al., 2012).***

The survival rates of SLE patients have significantly improved over the past 5 decades. However, as compared to the general population, a 3 to 5-fold increased risk of death, continues to persist ***(Bongu et al., 2002).***

The reported prevalence of SLE in the population is 20 to 140 cases per 100,000 ***(Chakravarty et al. 2007).***

The 5-year survival rate in SLE has dramatically increased since the mid-20th century from approximately 40 percent in the 1950s, to more than 90 percent in studies conducted after 1980 ***(Trager, 2001).*** This trend has continued into the early 21st century ***(Urowitz, et al., 2008).*** However, poor survival in SLE is still reported in certain ethnic groups such as Indians ***(Kumar, et al., 1992),*** Black Caribbeans ***(Nossent, et al., 1993)*** and Hispanics

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