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|  | **Introduction**  **Statement of the Problem:** The main problem with Lupus is that it is a multifactoral disease that mimics the symptoms of other diseases, so it is very hard to diagnose and understand. This disease is so complex that the medical world still does not know exactly what causes the disease. Doctors have, however, greatly advanced in their knowledge about Lupus as they now know that it is an autoimmune disease and is probably caused by a genetic predisposition to the disease, and then brought out by certain environmental factors, however this is still only a theory. Because scientists do not know what causes the disease, they do not know how to treat it either as there is currently no cure for Lupus, it is a chronic disease. Doctors can only threat the symptoms of Lupus. The goal of my research and this project was to try and find some factors that can possibly cause the disease to appear in people. If we can target some of the causes of Lupus, then we have a much better chance of achieving the ultimate goal: to find a cure for this mysterious disease called Lupus.  **Hypothesis**: After the extensive research I have done and my own encounters and experiences with Lupus, I hypothesize that there are many factors that can cause Lupus flares, but that there will be a few that make a very significant showing in my survey results. I suspect the most significant factors will include gender, use of aspartine (because of my own experiences with the chemical), eating disorders, and family history. I came up with this list from research that has been done about their correlation to Lupus, as well as my own experiences with the disease. I think that there will be more eating disorders, more use of aspartine, more family history, more smoking, more coffee drinking, more sun exposure, and more females among the Lupus population. I am not sure about vitamins or exercise, however I would expect there to be more of these among the healthy population.  ([Next)](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html) | |
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