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|  | **How Long Has Lupus Been Around?**  The scientific name for Lupus is actually *Lupus Erythematosus* which means "wolf" and "redness" in Latin. Frenchman Pierre Cazenave coined this name in 1851 due to the fact that the marlar butterfly rash, associated with the disease, looked like the bite of a wolf. The seventeenth century may have been the first time the disease was officially named, but it can be dated back to 400 BC in Ancient Greece where it was mentioned by Hippocrates. By the mid-1800�s, Vietnamese physicians Ferdinand Von Hebra and Mariz Kaposi announced that the disease was not just an external skin disorder as many had thought, but that it also involved the internal organs. Further knowledge of Lupus was published by Sir William Osler, founder of the first residency programs at John Hopkins in 1895, as he wrote the earliest complete treatises on Lupus from 1895 to 1903, which included symptoms and the organ systems involved. The golden age of pathology arrived in the 1920�s and in the next ten years, it was discovered that Lupus also affected the kidneys, lungs, and heart and that it often caused problems such as anemia and low platelet counts. During the 1930�s and 1940�s, immunology was still young and the complete structure of the antibody, as we know it today, was still undiscovered so no one knew how exactly Lupus damaged the organs, but only that is was an illness associated with a rash, kidney failure, and sun sensitivity. Lupus was not understood and it was still considered a terminal illness, as doctors did not know how to treat the disease. The 1940�s was an important decade in Lupus research as many discoveries were made in the diagnosis process such as the association with the false syphilis test, discovery of the LE cell, involvement with blood proteins (antibodies), and its reactions with normal tissue. At Sinai Hospital in New York City, Doctor Paul Klemperer categorized Lupus as a "collagen disease" in 1941. Even though this was later proven invalid, it was an important step in realizing what kind of disease Lupus really is; an autoimmune disorder. Another landmark in rheumatology came in 1946 when Malcolm Hargraves was examining a sample of bone marrow at the Mayo Clinic and discovered the LE (lupus erythematosus) cell. As doctors started to gain a better understanding of the disease, they were able to start coming up with new treatments for it. Dr. Phillip Hench of the Mayo Clinic announced one of the earliest in 1949. He suggested cortisone as a therapy for Lupus patients. The 1950�s held perhaps the final piece in understanding as much as we know today about how lupus works. The fluorescent antinuclear antibody assay-ANA test was created and antibodies such as Sm and RNP were discovered. Also, some of the genetics of the disease were looked at which have led to extensive research of how Lupus relates to immune response, hormones, and new drugs. In the past twenty-five years, Lupus research has greatly advanced however there is still no cure for the disease. Even though it is no longer considered a terminal illness, as it can now be controlled with proper medical treatment, Lupus is still very mysterious and continues to baffle doctors as they try to find its cause. Unfortunately, it will take a better understanding of what causes the disease for a cure to be found.  ([Next)](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html) | |
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