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|  | **Lupus Fact Sheet of The Lupus Foundation Of America**  **Did you know�?**  **-Lupus is not infectious, rare, or cancerous**  - **LFA market research data show that between 1,400,000 and 2,000,000 people have been diagnosed with lupus. (Study conducted by Bruskin/Goldring Research, 1994) and it is more common than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and cystic fibrosis combined.**  - **-Lupus can occur at any age, in either sex, and in any race as it affects one out of every 185 Americans. However, it is more common in women (ten to fifteen times greater in women than in men during child bearing years) and 90% of all Lupus patients are women. The disease is also more common in minorities such as African Americans, Indians, Asian, and Hispanics.**  - **Only 10% of people with Lupus have a relative with Lupus and only 5% of children with mothers who have SLE will develop the disease**  **The Prognosis:**  The outcome of Systematic Lupus is different for every patient. It depends on who is treating the disease, ethnicity, race, geographically defined population, socioeconomic status (access to care), and treatment philosophy of the health care provider. Perhaps one of the most important factors is the attitude of the patient. Patients with a positive attitude and good coping mechanisms, including proper treatment, regular doctors visits, etc., have a much better prognosis. Although the disease is potentially fatal, and thousands of people in the United States alone die of Lupus each year, most cases can be controlled with the proper treatment. With all of the new advancement in Lupus research over the past twenty years, the prognosis for SLE patients is generally "good", according to Dr Robert Lahita. Increased professional awareness and better diagnostic techniques and evaluation methods are helping doctors to diagnose Lupus in its earlier stage, so 80-90% of patients can enjoy a normal life span, according to the Lupus Foundation of America. In fact, the most common cause of death among SLE patients is not Lupus itself but from other complications. Ninety percent of Lupus patients die of kidney disease, infections, blood clots, or cardiovascular complications, according to Dr. Wallace. Lupus continues to become more common, as there are 16,000 new cases reported every year and the word is getting out as many new organizations, including The Lupus Foundation of America, are forming to provide patients with services, education, awareness, and research. This new research is also advancing every day so I can only be optimistic in hope that there will soon be a cure for this mysterious and complex disease called Systematic Lupus Erthematosus. | |
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