Rituxan (Rituximab) (Genentech Inc. and Biogen Idec Inc.) for systemic lupus erythematosus

Record Status
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Authors' objectives
Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) is a chronic, inflammatory autoimmune disorder. It is characterized by the involvement of multiple organ systems, a clinical pattern of flares and remissions, and the presence of autoantibodies. Prevalence estimates vary widely, due, at least in part, to difficulties with accurate diagnosis. The incidence of SLE is influenced by sex and race. The cause of SLE is not known, and there is no cure for SLE. Treatment is aimed at controlling symptoms. Some patients with SLE develop deposits of antibodies within the kidneys, which can lead to a condition called lupus nephritis (LN) and kidney failure in severe cases. Refractory manifestations and treatment-related complications of SLE remain major causes of mortality and morbidity.

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