



دانشگاه علوم پزشکی شهید صدوقی یزد

LUPUS IN MEN AND ELDERLY



DR. HAMIDREZA SOLTANI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

SSU-YAZD DEY 1404

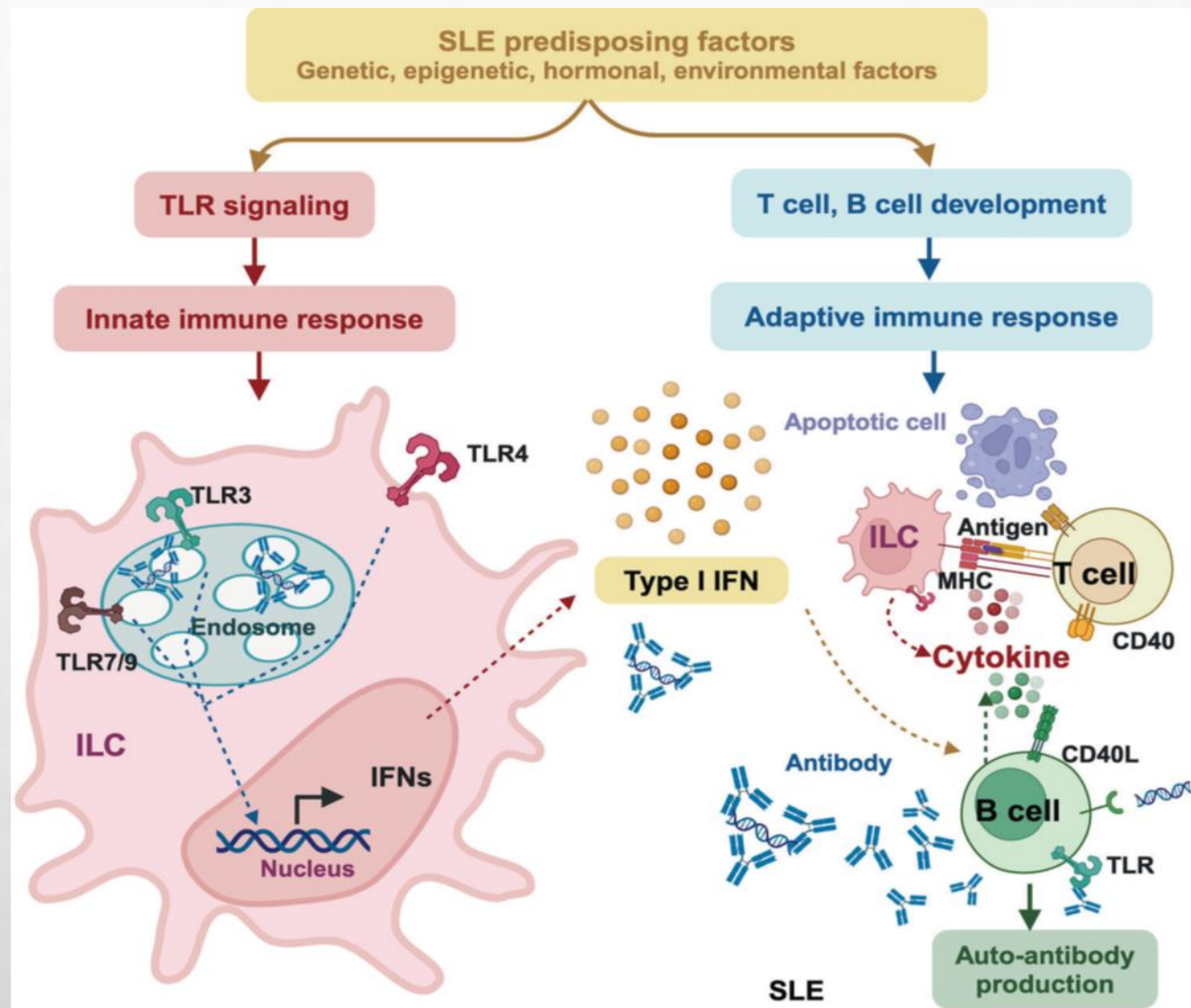


بیمارستان شهید رهنمون یزد



PATHOGENESIS

- PREDISPOSING FACTORS INCLUDING GENETIC, EPIGENETIC, HORMONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
- TYPE I IFN FUNCTIONS AS THE HUB BRIDGING THE INNATE AND ADAPTIVE IMMUNE SYSTEMS



REF: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-025-02168-0>

Epidemiology of SLE in Men

- SLE mainly affects young women
- late-onset SLE (≥ 50 years) represents ~3–18% of cases.
- Proportion of men is higher in late-onset SLE → smaller F:M ratio
(~5:1 vs ~9:1 in younger adults).



Epidemiology of SLE in Elderly

- Diagnosis is often **delayed** in older patients due to **subtle/atypical** presentation.
- Classic cutaneous features (malar rash, photosensitivity) are less common in elderly/men.
- Comorbidities are more frequent (**cardiovascular** disease, **infection**, **malignancy**).



Clinical Features: Men vs Women

- Men: more **renal** involvement and **serositis**; less **malar** rash/**alopecia**.



Clinical Features: Men vs Women

- **Hematologic** abnormalities (anemia, leukopenia) are more common in younger women.



Clinical Features: Elderly

- more **serositis** and **pulmonary** involvement
- less **arthritis** and **nephritis**.



Clinical Features: Elderly

- Late-onset SLE can be **insidious** → diagnostic **lag** may reach ~**5y**



- **Myositis** appears relatively more often in **older-onset** SLE.

LABORATORY & SEROLOGY DIFFERENCES



ANTI-RO/SSA AND
ANTI-LA/SSB



- LOWER ANTI-DSDNA,
ANTI-SM, ANTI-RNP
- LESS
HYPOCOMPLEMENTEMIA

+TIVE RF

HIGH ESR

Disease Activity & Organ Damage

- At onset, **activity scores** (SLEDAI) are often lower in late-onset SLE.
- **Damage indices** (SDI) may be higher due to comorbidities rather than disease activity.
- Less aggressive therapy/delayed recognition can contribute to **under-detected organ damage**.



Prognosis & Survival



- Survival is lower in late-onset SLE: ~70–75% 10-year survival vs ~90–95% in early-onset.
- Risk factors: male sex, high disease activity (SLEDAI), poor adherence.



Prognosis & Survival



- **Infection** is the leading cause of death, followed by **cardiovascular** disease.
- In older patients, mortality is often driven by **comorbidities rather than SLE itself**.
- Long-term monitoring should account for frailty and comorbidity burden.



Treatment Considerations



- Older patients tolerate IS less well → lower use despite indications.
- HCQ is generally safe unless contraindicated; tailor steroids/IS to risk profile.
- Maintenance prednisolone < 5 mg
- Consider renal function, infection risk, and comorbidities when choosing therapy.

Treatment Considerations



- Late-onset SLE often presents as organ-limited disease → **individualized** treatment.
- Earlier recognition can prevent irreversible organ damage.
- **Polypharmacy**

Treatment Considerations: biologics



- Belimumab and Anifrolumab effective

JAK			Infections		Hematologic		Liver and GIT	Thrombosis	Lipids	Others	Malignancies
			Serious	URT	NEU	LYM	TA	VTE	HDL	CREA	Malignancies
			OI	HZ	Hb	PLT	GIP	PE	LDL	CPK	NMSC
Non-selective	Tofacitinib	JAK1-3	↑	↑	↓	↑	↑	↑*	↑	↑	↑*
			↑	↑↑	↔	↑	↔(?)	↑*	↑	↑	↔(?)
	Peficitinib	JAK1-3	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↔(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)
			↑	↑↑	↓	↔	↔(?)	↔(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)
	Baricitinib	JAK1,2	↑	↑	↓	↔	↑	↑	↑	↑	↔(?)
			↑	↑↑	↓	↑	↔(?)	↑(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)
Selective	Upadacitinib	JAK1,2	↑	↑	↓	↓	↑	↔(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)
			↑	↑↑	↓	↓	↔(?)	↔(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)
	Filgotinib	JAK1	↑	↑	↔	↔	↔	↔(?)	↑	↔	↔(?)
			↑	↔	↑	↓	↔(?)	↔(?)	↑	↑	↔(?)

REF:Bonelli M, et al. Ann Rheum Dis 2024;83:139–160.
doi:10.1136/ard-2023-223850

Key Takeaways

- Late-onset SLE is relatively more common in men than early-onset disease.
- Elderly SLE often presents atypically: fewer skin/renal features; more serositis/myositis.
- Disease activity may be lower, yet organ damage risk remains significant.

Key Takeaways

- Outcomes are influenced by age, sex, comorbidities, and disease activity.
- Vigilance, tailored therapy, and prevention/monitoring of infection & cardiovascular events are essential.



کانال کشوری راند روماتولوژی

4.1K



@YAZDRHEUMAT
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