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Making Education Easy

The incidence, diagnostic clinical manifestations and severity of juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus in New Zealand Māori and Pacific Island children: the Starship experience (2000–2010)

Authors: Concannon A et al.

Summary: This paper describes the incidence, diagnostic clinical manifestations and severity of juvenile systemic lupus erythematosus (jSLE) in a cohort of New Zealand Māori and Pacific Island children compared to European children. A review of charts for 32 children with jSLE seen by the Starship paediatric rheumatology and/or renal services between January 2000 and November 2010 revealed an annual incidence of 0.52/100,000 per year. The incidence of jSLE was higher among Māori and Pacific (0.67/100,000 per year; $p=0.06$) and significantly higher among Asian children (1.17/100,000 per year; $p=0.01$) than among European children (0.31/100,000 per year). At presentation, lupus nephritis was diagnosed significantly more often in Māori and Pacific children compared with European children (80% vs 40%; $p=0.09$, as was severe (WHO class 4 or 5) renal lesions (60% vs 40%, $p=0.43$). Similarly, at any time during the study, lupus nephritis (100% vs 40%; $p=0.001$) and severe (WHO class 4 or 5) renal lesions (73.3% vs 40%; $p=0.12$) were more frequent among Māori and Pacific compared with European children. In retrospective analyses of British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG) scores, severe "Category A" disease occurred more often in Māori and Pacific children compared with European children (56.8% vs 22.7%; $p=0.17$) and was predominantly renal in nature (73.3% vs 40%; $p=0.12$).

Comment: Many people ask me if SLE or lupus is more common in Māori. My experience has been 'yes' but we now have the evidence to confirm what we thought.

Reference: *Lupus* 2013;22(11):1156-61

[Abstract](#)

Independent commentary by Dr Matire Harwood

Dr Matire Harwood (Ngapuhi) has worked in Hauora Māori, primary health and rehabilitation settings as clinician and researcher since graduating from Auckland Medical School in 1994. She also holds positions on a number of boards, committees and advisory groups including the Health Research Council. Matire lives in Auckland with her whānau including partner Haunui and two young children Te Rangiura and Waimarie.

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