

Supplementary Table S1. Baseline features of patients included in the study compared to patients excluded due to a follow-up of less than 5 years.

	Included patients (187 patients)	Excluded patients (52 patients)	<i>p</i> -value
Female, %	91.4	88.6	0.586
Age at SLE diagnosis, years	25 (19.7-33.8)	23.6 (18-37.6)	0.633
Age at LN diagnosis, years	28.1 (21.9-37.8)	28.8 (21.4-39.4)	0.921
Serum creatinine, mg/dl	0.9 (0.7-1.4)	1 (0.7-1.4)	0.485
Serum creatinine >1mg/dl, %	40.6	45.7	0.576
eGFR, ml/min/1.73mq	79.8 (50.4-106.8)	87.1 (67.7-105.7)	0.734
eGFR <60 ml/min/1.73mq	31.6	22.9	0.304
Proteinuria g/24h	3.6 (1.8-5.3)	3.4 (2.2-5.3)	0.797
Arterial hypertension, %	49.7	51.4	0.854
Acute renal dysfunction, %	31	25.7	0.531
Serum albumin, mg/dl	2.9 (2.3-3.5)	2.9 (2.6-3.3)	0.820
C3, mg/dl	58 (49-78.5)	56 (47.5-66.5)	0.406
C4, mg/dl	11 (6-16)	9 (5-12.5)	0.072
APL Ab, %	20.9	22.9	0.790
Histological class II+V / III+IV, %	24.6 / 75.4	20 / 80	0.602
Activity index	6 (3-9)	8 (4.8-10)	0.104
Chronicity index	2 (1-3)	2 (1-4)	0.202
Induction with MP pulses, %	76.5	74.3	0.781
Induction with IS, %	77.5	80	0.747
Hydroxychloroquine, %	54	51.4	0.778
Maintenance therapy with IS, %	47.6	60	0.178

SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; LN: lupus nephritis; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; APL Ab: antiphospholipid antibodies; MP: methyl-prednisolone; IS: immunosuppressors.

Unless differently specified, the data are reported as median and interquartile ranges.

Supplementary Table S2. Changes in immunosuppressive therapy during the different periods of the study.

Study periods	n of patients	CYC AZA	MMF CsA	RTX	MTX		
Induction immunosuppressive therapy							
1970-1985	57	27 (47%)	12 (21%)	0	0	0	2 (3.5%)
1986-2001	70	38 (54%)	7 (10%)	2 (2.9%)	3 (4.3%)	0	1 (1.4%)
2002-2019	60	31 (52%)	1 (1.7%)	16 (27%)	2 (3.3%)	3 (5%)	0
Maintenance immunosuppressive therapy							
1970-1985	57	0	5 (8.8%)	0	0	0	0
1986-2001	70	0	21 (30%)	7 (10%)	8 (11.4)	0	0
2002-2019	60	0	16 (27%)	30 (50%)	2 (3.3%)	0	0

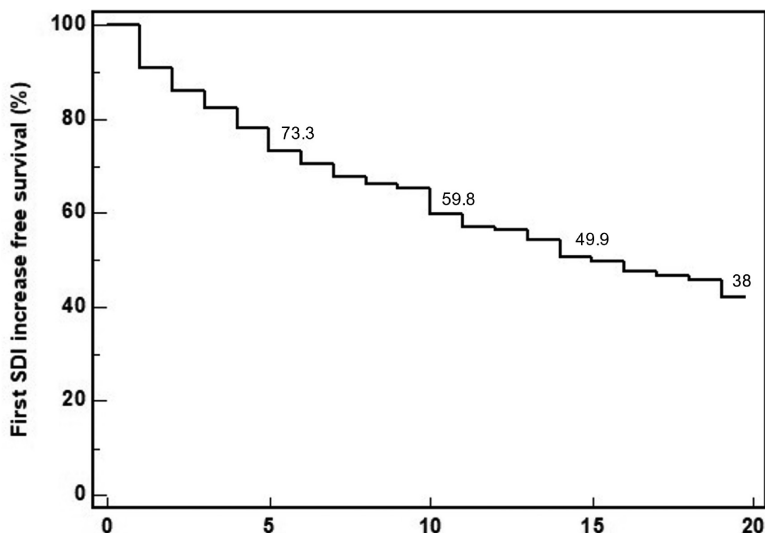
n: number; LN: lupus nephritis; CYC: cyclophosphamide; AZA: azathioprine; MMF: mycophenolate mofetil; CsA: cyclosporine A; RTX: rituximab; MTX: methotrexate.

Supplementary Table S3. Predictors of total damage accrual at univariate and multivariate linear regression analysis.

	Univariate analysis <i>p</i> -value	Multivariate analysis <i>p</i> -value
Baseline characteristics		
Age at SLE	0.033	
Age at LN	0.121	
Serum creatinine, mg/dl	0.002	
eGFR ml/min/1.73mq	0.007	0.025
Acute renal dysfunction ^a	<0.001	
Red blood cells at urinary sediment	0.890	
Arterial hypertension	<0.001	0.030
Proteinuria g/24h	<0.001	
Serum albumin, mg/dl	0.008	
Haematocrit, %	0.009	
C3, mg/dl	0.525	
C4, mg/dl	0.333	
Histological class II+V vs. III+IV	0.324	
Activity index	0.002	
Chronicity index	<0.001	0.008
SLEDAI	0.051	
Methylprednisolone pulses	0.097	
Characteristics from lupus nephritis diagnosis to the end of follow-up		
Cumulative steroid dosage, mg	0.016	
Average steroid dosage, mg/day	<0.001	<0.001
Average steroid dosage <5mg/day	0.020	
% of follow-up in complete remission	<0.001	0.028

SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus; LN: lupus nephritis; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; SLEDAI: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index.

^aacute nephritic syndrome + rapidly progressive renal insufficiency vs. urinary abnormalities + nephrotic syndrome.



Supplementary Fig. S1. First SDI score increase free survival during 20 years of observation.