

Supplementary Table S1. Baseline SDI items at LN onset in clinically diagnosed and biopsy-confirmed LN.

SDI item	Overall (n=127) [‡]	Clinically diagnosed (n=43) [‡]	Biopsy-confirmed (n=84) [‡]	p-value
Patients with SDI ≥ 1	34 (27.9)	18 (43.9)	16 (19.8)	0.01
Musculoskeletal	10 (8.2)	5 (12.2)	5 (6.2)	0.43
Neurologic	9 (7.4)	3 (7.3)	6 (7.4)	1.00
Cardiovascular	6 (4.9)	6 (14.6)	0 (0.0)	<0.01
Peripheral vascular	5 (4.1)	4 (9.8)	1 (1.2)	0.08
Skin	5 (4.1)	2 (4.9)	3 (3.7)	1.00
Diabetes mellitus	5 (4.1)	2 (4.9)	3 (3.7)	1.00
Ocular	4 (3.3)	2 (4.9)	2 (2.5)	0.87
Gastrointestinal	2 (1.6)	2 (4.9)	0 (0.0)	0.21
Premature gonadal failure	2 (1.6)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.5)	0.80
Pulmonary	1 (0.8)	1 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	0.73
Renal	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	NA
Malignancy	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	NA

SDI: Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/American College of Rheumatology Damage Index; LN: lupus nephritis; SLE: systemic lupus erythematosus.

[‡]Five patients had missing baseline SDI data (2 in the clinically diagnosed group and 3 in the biopsy-confirmed group); therefore, percentages were calculated using available data.

Supplementary Table S2. Breakdown of specific outcome events among patients with clinically diagnosed and biopsy-confirmed lupus nephritis.

Event	Overall (n=127) [‡]	Clinically diagnosed (n=43) [‡]	Biopsy-confirmed (n=84) [‡]	p-value
$\geq 30\%$ eGFR decline	24 (19.2)	7 (16.7)	17 (20.5)	0.79
ESKD	4 (3.2)	1 (2.4)	3 (3.6)	1.00
Death	4 (3.1)	2 (4.7)	2 (2.4)	0.88

ESKD: end-stage kidney disease; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate.

[‡]Two patients had missing baseline SDI data (1 in the clinically diagnosed group and 1 in the biopsy-confirmed group); therefore, percentages were calculated using available data.

Supplementary Table S3. Univariable and multivariable Cox proportional hazard models comparing biopsy-confirmed vs. clinically diagnosed lupus nephritis, restricted to patients with baseline proteinuria ≥ 1.5 g/day.

Outcome	Model	Exposure: biopsy-confirmed vs. clinically diagnosed LN	p-value
CPR	Univariable	HR 0.92 (0.51–1.65)	0.77
	Multivariable*	HR 0.90 (0.50–1.64)	0.73
Sustained $\geq 30\%$ decline in eGFR,	Univariable	HR 1.13 (0.37–3.40)	0.83
ESKD, or death (composite outcome)	Multivariable*	HR 0.88 (0.25–3.11)	0.84

CPR: complete proteinuria recovery; ESKD: end-stage kidney disease; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; HR: hazard ratio.

*Adjusted for baseline age, proteinuria, and SDI.