

## Comment on the paper by Kapsala *et al.*

Sirs,

We read with the article by Kapsala *et al.*, entitled: "From first symptoms to diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus: mapping the journey of patients in an observational study" and found it of some interest (1), however, we would like to point out a problem we found when reading this communication in detail.

On page 78, under *Outcomes* (bottom right) the authors indicate that 1 out of 6 patients at diagnosis had irreversible organ damage, mostly attributed to neuropsychiatric manifestations and thrombotic events. This is incorrect, since the SLICC Damage Index or SDI is 0 at diagnosis and damage can only accumulate thenceforward (2). Of course, this may have affected the subsequent data presented.

We think this clarification is in order.

G.S. ALARCÓN<sup>1</sup>, MD, MPH  
B.A. PONS-ESTEL<sup>2</sup>, MD  
G.J. PONS-ESTEL<sup>2</sup>, MD, PhD  
E. ZAVALA<sup>3</sup>, MD  
R. NIETO<sup>2</sup>, MD  
R. QUINTANA<sup>2</sup>, MD, PhD

<sup>1</sup>*Division of Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, USA;*

<sup>2</sup>*Grupo Oroño, Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumáticas (GO-CREAR), Rosario, Argentina;*

<sup>3</sup>*Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia (UPCH), Lima, Perú.*

*Please address correspondence to:*

*Rosana Quintana*

*Grupo Oroño, Centro Regional de Enfermedades Autoinmunes y Reumáticas (GO-CREAR), Laprida 1283 7B,*

*2000 Rosario (Santa Fe), Argentina.*

*E-mail: rosanaquintana@gmail.com*

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## References

1. KAPSALA NN, NIKOLOPOULOS DS, FLOUDA SP *et al.*: From first symptoms to diagnosis of systemic lupus erythematosus: mapping the journey of patients in an observational study. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2023; 41(1): 74-81. <https://doi.org/10.55563/clinexp Rheumatol/x3s9td>
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