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Appointments at Mayo Clinic

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Diseases and Conditions

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Lupus

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Definition

By Mayo Clinic Staff

Definition

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Products and services

Lupus is a chronic inflammatory disease that occurs when your body's immune system attacks your own tissues and organs. Inflammation caused by lupus can affect many different body systems — including your joints, skin, kidneys, blood cells, brain, heart and lungs.

Lupus can be difficult to diagnose because its signs and symptoms often mimic those of other ailments. The most distinctive sign of lupus — a facial rash that resembles the wings of a butterfly unfolding across both cheeks — occurs in many but not all cases of lupus.

Some people are born with a tendency toward developing lupus, which may be triggered by infections, certain drugs or even sunlight. While there's no cure for lupus, treatments can help control symptoms.

Appointments & care

At Mayo Clinic, we take the time to listen, to find answers and to provide you the best care.

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Symptoms

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