WHAT IS LUPUS NEPHRITIS (LN)?

Lupus nephritis (LN) is a disease caused by antibodies that damage the kidneys. LN often develops in people with lupus, a serious autoimmune disease that causes the immune system to mistakenly attack healthy tissue. LN is estimated to affect approximately 10–30% of people living with lupus. Like lupus, LN can be difficult to diagnose and even more difficult to treat. LN often develops within the first 6–36 months from when lupus symptoms first appear.

In LN, immune complexes (e.g., immunoglobulin G (IgG) and antigen) accumulate in the kidneys and activate the complement system. This dangerous, uncontrolled cascade of reactions can injure the kidneys, leading to inflammation and kidney damage. LN is ultimately diagnosed based on results from the biopsy, which is considered the gold standard in LN. Results from the biopsy will determine if a kidney biopsy is needed.

WHAT TREATMENT APPROACH IS BEING STUDIED BY ALEXION?

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The complement system is a part of the immune system, and is activated when the body’s defense against infection.

High cholesterol

Weight gain

Fatigue

Loss of appetite

Increased urination

 kortezza.png

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