

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics of the 344 SLE patients and 344 population-based controls.

	<b>Mean (range) or number (percentage)</b>	
<b>Background variables</b>	<b>SLE patients</b>	<b>Controls</b>
Age (years)	34.0 (12-73)	34.4 (15-73)
Weight (kg)	67.5 (32.6-133.0)	N/A
Height (cm)	164.6 (145.0-194.5)	N/A
Female sex	315 (91.6%)	315 (91.6%)
<b>Ethnicities</b>		
Caucasian	200 (58.1%)	327 (95.1%)
African descendants	52 (15.1%)	4 (1.1%)
Asian	64 (18.6%)	3 (0.9%)
Other	28 (8.1%)	10 (2.9%)
<b>Disease variables</b>		
SLEDAI-2K (score)	5.0 (0-30)	N/A
C-reactive protein (mg/L)*	4.6 (0-114)	
Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (mm)#	23.9 (1-99)	
Glucocorticoid dose at baseline (mg/day)	14 (0-90)	
Creatinine (mg/dL)	0.7 (0.1-8.1)	
Estimated GFR (mL/mean/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	119.9 (6.3-473.2)	
Low complement	130 (37.8%)	
Increased DNA binding	150 (43.6%)	
<b>1997 ACR criteria (at enrolment)</b>		<b>N/A</b>
1. Malar rash	111 (32.3%)	

2. Discoid rash	39 (11.3%)	
3. Photosensitivity	131 (38.1%)	
4. Oral ulcers	125 (36.3%)	
5. Arthritis	249 (72.4%)	
6. Serositis	92 (26.7%)	
7. Renal disorder	75 (21.8%)	
8. Neurologic disorder	12 (3.5%)	
9. Hematologic disorder	214 (62.2%)	
10. Immunologic disorder	265 (77.0%)	
11. Antinuclear antibody	336 (97.7%)	

ACR = American college of rheumatology, SLE = systemic lupus erythematosus, SLEDAI-2K = SLE disease activity index 2000

\* Performed locally at each SLICC centre ( $n=312$ )

# Performed locally at each SLICC centre ( $n=167$ )