Topline Summary
Global Survey Reveals Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on People with Lupus

The World Lupus Federation conducted a global survey concerning the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people living with lupus. The 20-question survey was implemented from March 18-31, 2021 and completed by 6,100 people living with lupus from more than 85 countries. The survey results highlight the recent experiences and broad impacts that COVID-19 has had on people living with lupus, including reduced access to medical care for lupus, lupus-related health complications during the pandemic, concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccines, and restricted access to lupus medications. Click here to view detailed global survey results.

Half of the survey participants (50%) reported decreased access to at least one aspect of lupus healthcare in the last three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 36% Reported decreased access to their lupus doctor/rheumatologist (n=5,873)
- 29% Reported decreased access to medical tests for lupus (n=5,413)
- 24% Reported decreased access to infusions for lupus (n=2,311)
- 17% Reported decreased access to lupus medications (n=5,705)

2 in 3 reported lupus-related medical complications in the past 3 months.

Among the nearly two-thirds who reported lupus-related medical complications in the past three months, complications included a lupus flare (36%), multiple lupus flares (23%), or lupus-related hospitalizations (4%). Just over one-third (37%) of survey participants reported having no health complications.

Those participants who reported reduced access to at least one lupus treatment over the last three months were significantly more likely to have reported lupus-related health complications, including more lupus flares and more lupus-related hospitalizations (n=6,003).

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10% of survey participants living with lupus have been infected with COVID-19.

Those living in the United States were statistically more likely to report having been infected with COVID-19 (11%) than those living outside the U.S. (7%).

1 in 3 were not able to receive the vaccine ahead of general population.

More than a third (35%) of participants reported that people with lupus in their local area were not able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine earlier than the general population. Another 35% did not know whether those with lupus could receive the vaccine earlier than the general population.

75% of the participants reported vaccine-related concerns.

Among those with vaccine-related concerns, the highest number reported being concerned about the possible side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in people with lupus, the interaction of the COVID-19 vaccine with lupus and/or lupus medications, and the safety of the vaccine.

- Reported concerns about possible side effects of the vaccine in people with lupus: 68%
- Reported concerns about the interaction of the vaccine with lupus / lupus medications: 61%
- Reported concerns about the safety of the vaccine: 52%

45% of the participants had received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Those living in the United States were significantly more likely to report having received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine than those living outside the United States.