

Appendix Table 1. Published definitions of remission in general SLE (years 1990 – 2015)

First author (ref.)	Study design	Definition of remission components				Remission achieved (%)
		Clinical activity	Serologic activity	Treatment	Duration	
Walz LeBlanc (1)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI = 0	Allowed	No restriction	≥2 consecutive visits	N/D
Drenkard (2)	Observational	Clinically inactive disease	Allowed	None allowed	≥1 year	23.4%
Formiga (3)	Observational	Absence of clinical activity that permitted withdrawal of all SLE treatments	Allowed	None allowed	≥1 year	24%
Barr (4)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI score = 0, or PGA = 0 (a single PGA value >0 but <1.0 was allowed during the 12-month interval)	Allowed	No restriction	≥1 year	28% (PGA) to 44% (SLEDAI) of patients; 16% (PGA) to 25% (SLEDAI) of follow-up time
Swaak (5)	Observational	Absence of disease-related signs	N/D	None allowed	N/D	N/D
Gilboe (6)	Observational	SLEDAI = 0	Not allowed	No restriction	2 years	12%
Houman (7)	Observational	Clinical and biological remission (not otherwise specified)	Not allowed	N/D	N/D	10%
Urowitz (8)	Observational	SLEDAI-2K = 0	Not allowed	Only NSAIDs	≥5 years	1.7%
Brunner (9)	Observational	SLEDAI-2K = 0	Not allowed	No restriction	N/D	16%
Al Arfaj (10)	Observational	Subsidence of clinical and laboratory disease activity	Allowed	No restriction	'Long-term' (not specified)	74.4% on maintenance therapy, 6.3% on HCQ only, 1.8% off-therapy
Lu (11)	Open label	Change from a BILAG A or B score to a C or D score in every organ system	Allowed	No restriction	No restriction	42%
Steiman (12)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI-2K = 0	Allowed	AM only	≥2 years	6.1%
Griffiths (13)	RCT	'Major' response: no BILAG A or B scores in any system	Allowed	No restriction	No restriction	45% of the CsA group, 40% of the AZA group (at 12 months)
Nossent (14)	Observational	Physician judgment (not otherwise defined)	N/D	N/D	No restriction	27.5% during the first year

Catapano (15)	Open label	Absence of BILAG A, B and C	Allowed	No restriction	No restriction	54.8%
Otten (16)	Observational	No signs of disease activity in the organ systems, ESR <20 mm/h, normal hematological findings, no signs of proteinuria or hematuria	N/D	Prednisone <0.3 mg/kg	≥6 months	37%
Ginzler (17)	RCT	BILAG D score in previously affected system; alternatively, SELENA-SLEDAI ≤2	Allowed (BILAG); N/D (SLEDAI)	No restriction	No restriction	Approx. 60% (BILAG), 17.4% (SLEDAI)
Conti (18)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI-2K = 0	Allowed	Only AM allowed	≥2 years	N/D
Zen (19)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI-2K = 0	Allowed	No restriction	≥3 annual visits	43.6% to 61% (on annual basis)
Steiman (20)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI-2K = 0	Allowed	Only AM allowed	≥5 years	2.4%
Zen (21)	Observational	Clinical SLEDAI-2K = 0	Allowed	AM alone, or off-steroids, or on low-dose steroids (AM/ISTs allowed)	≥5 years	7.1% (complete remission), 14.7% (off-steroids), 15.6% (on steroids)
das Chagas Medeiros (22)	Observational	Absence of any clinical manifestation or laboratory finding indicating active disease	Not allowed	N/D	N/D	58.2%
Medina- Quiñones (23)	Observational	BILAG C, D or E	Not allowed	Only AM and NSAIDs allowed	≥3 years	14.5%

Abbreviations: PGA, physician global assessment, AM, antimalarials, ISTs, immunosuppressive treatment(s), N/D, not described, HCQ, hydroxychloroquine, AZA, azathioprine, CsA, ciclosporin A, NSAIDs, non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs, ESR, erythrocyte sedimentation rate

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