

**Supplementary Table 1** Association between various factors and subsequent flare or damage accrual in mSACQ patients with SLE assessed using Cox proportional hazard models

Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	Overall flare				Severe flare				Damage accrual			
	HR	CL	CU	p-value	HR	CL	CU	p-value	HR	CL	CU	p-value
0 ≤, and ≤7.5												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.050	1.019	1.082	0.002	1.116	1.060	1.174	0.000	1.050	0.989	1.114	0.111
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.018	0.986	1.052	0.265	0.981	0.958	1.004	0.107	0.974	0.956	0.993	0.007
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	0.777	0.663	0.911	0.002	0.590	0.458	0.759	0.000	1.095	0.786	1.525	0.593
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.121	0.962	1.306	0.143	0.774	0.603	0.992	0.043	1.029	0.755	1.401	0.858
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	1.009	1.000	1.019	0.053	0.994	0.977	1.011	0.471	1.022	1.007	1.038	0.005
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.069	1.023	1.118	0.003	1.182	1.135	1.231	0.000	0.969	0.917	1.025	0.275
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.987	0.981	0.993	0.000	0.985	0.975	0.996	0.006				
Gender [male vs. female]	0.894	0.666	1.200	0.456	1.159	0.733	1.831	0.528				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.966	0.758	1.231	0.780	1.077	0.717	1.619	0.721				
0 ≤, and ≤5												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	0.999	0.937	1.065	0.977	1.087	0.968	1.220	0.158	1.007	0.883	1.147	0.920
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.017	0.977	1.057	0.409	0.984	0.956	1.013	0.278	0.984	0.958	1.011	0.248
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	0.711	0.594	0.852	0.000	0.503	0.377	0.672	0.000	1.109	0.756	1.627	0.597
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.167	0.980	1.390	0.082	0.716	0.539	0.952	0.021	1.160	0.811	1.660	0.417
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	1.008	0.997	1.019	0.165	1.007	0.988	1.027	0.459	1.012	0.993	1.030	0.218
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.052	0.999	1.108	0.055	1.146	1.090	1.204	0.000	0.975	0.913	1.042	0.456
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.987	0.980	0.994	0.000	0.976	0.963	0.989	0.000				
Gender [male vs. female]	0.800	0.553	1.157	0.236	1.318	0.762	2.282	0.323				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.762	0.541	1.073	0.120	0.862	0.477	1.559	0.624				
5 <, and ≤7.5												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.038	0.770	1.400	0.805	1.596	0.943	2.703	0.082	1.661	0.880	3.134	0.117
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.005	0.955	1.058	0.839	0.977	0.924	1.033	0.412	0.960	0.933	0.989	0.007
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	0.996	0.702	1.413	0.980	0.812	0.484	1.363	0.431	1.442	0.745	2.790	0.277
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.068	0.775	1.471	0.689	0.765	0.477	1.228	0.267	0.874	0.481	1.589	0.659
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	1.008	0.988	1.028	0.449	0.981	0.949	1.015	0.267	1.030	0.998	1.062	0.063
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.143	1.040	1.257	0.006	1.181	1.090	1.281	0.000	1.014	0.937	1.098	0.726
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.983	0.970	0.997	0.018	0.984	0.964	1.005	0.128				
Gender [male vs. female]	0.938	0.530	1.661	0.827	1.113	0.481	2.573	0.803				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.751	0.394	1.430	0.383	0.376	0.091	1.547	0.175				

Cox proportional hazard models were used to assess the association of 1-mg decrease of prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage and other factors with subsequent flare or damage accrual. Factors/covariates except "initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage" were those at subsequent visits.

mSACQ, modified serologically active clinically quiescent; SLE, systemic lupus erythematosus; GC, glucocorticoid; HR, hazard ratio; CL, confidence interval lower bound; CU confidence interval upper bound; SLEDAI-2K, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index 2000.