

**Supplementary Table 4** Association between various factors and subsequent flare or damage accrual in mSACQ patients with SLE assessed using Cox frailty 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
<b>0≤, and ≤7.5</b>												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.059	1.026	1.094	0.001	1.114	1.054	1.177	0.000	1.053	0.990	1.121	0.098
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.003	0.976	1.032	0.812	0.983	0.959	1.008	0.193	0.973	0.954	0.991	0.004
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	0.882	0.724	1.074	0.211	0.868	0.621	1.214	0.409	1.129	0.775	1.645	0.528
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.156	0.982	1.360	0.081	0.822	0.626	1.079	0.158	1.182	0.859	1.625	0.304
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	1.010	1.000	1.019	0.054	0.996	0.979	1.013	0.614	1.022	1.005	1.038	0.009
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.095	1.050	1.142	0.000	1.198	1.149	1.249	0.000	0.956	0.902	1.013	0.129
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.991	0.984	0.997	0.005	0.992	0.981	1.002	0.126				
Gender [male vs. female]	0.974	0.724	1.311	0.864	1.353	0.851	2.152	0.201				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.874	0.615	1.242	0.453	1.214	0.678	2.175	0.514				
<b>0≤, and ≤5</b>												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.061	0.993	1.134	0.080	1.104	0.981	1.242	0.100	1.003	0.878	1.147	0.964
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	1.004	0.971	1.038	0.811	0.991	0.958	1.025	0.609	0.982	0.956	1.010	0.203
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	0.927	0.733	1.173	0.530	0.853	0.581	1.251	0.415	1.099	0.705	1.711	0.677
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.190	0.981	1.444	0.077	0.818	0.591	1.131	0.224	1.304	0.896	1.899	0.165
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	1.011	0.999	1.022	0.070	1.008	0.988	1.027	0.439	1.013	0.993	1.033	0.198
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.082	1.031	1.135	0.001	1.155	1.098	1.216	0.000	0.967	0.904	1.034	0.327
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.991	0.984	0.999	0.027	0.985	0.972	0.999	0.032				
Gender [male vs. female]	0.904	0.621	1.315	0.597	1.654	0.943	2.900	0.079				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.653	0.417	1.023	0.063	0.764	0.360	1.620	0.482				
<b>5&lt;, and ≤7.5</b>												
Initial prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	0.870	0.634	1.192	0.385	1.522	0.878	2.638	0.134	1.510	0.797	2.863	0.207
Decrease in the prednisolone-equivalent GC dosage (mg/day)	0.977	0.933	1.024	0.330	0.968	0.915	1.023	0.247	0.957	0.930	0.985	0.003
Antimalarial use [yes vs. no]	1.017	0.676	1.530	0.937	1.071	0.596	1.925	0.818	1.559	0.766	3.175	0.221
Immunosuppressive use [yes vs. no]	1.225	0.861	1.742	0.259	0.758	0.458	1.255	0.282	0.954	0.511	1.782	0.882
Disease duration (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.994	0.972	1.015	0.565	0.973	0.939	1.008	0.128	1.035	1.002	1.070	0.038
SLEDAI-2K [per 1-unit increase]	1.109	1.007	1.220	0.035	1.171	1.078	1.272	0.000	1.001	0.920	1.088	0.983
Age at visit (year) [per 1-year increase]	0.987	0.972	1.002	0.081	0.994	0.973	1.015	0.556				
Gender [male vs. female]	1.138	0.634	2.041	0.665	1.320	0.563	3.097	0.523				
Ethnicity [non-Asian vs. Asian]	0.520	0.244	1.109	0.091	0.365	0.082	1.626	0.186				

Cox frailty 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.