

Drugs can induce a temporary form of Lupus

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Lupus, also known as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), is an autoimmune disease that can affect multiple organs of the body and cause reddening of the skin. Lupus will infect multiple different organs which then cause red lesions on the skin. The immune system usually protects it-self from bacteria but an autoimmune disease is a state where the immune system attacks healthy cells as well, leading to a disease state. There is not a clear single reason why it develops but it can be due to environmental factors or even medication prescribed. Here I reviewed the literature on autoimmune disease and medication correlation to it. Then I determined if using procainamide and hydralazine causes an autoimmune disease. In the course of this review, I found that approximately 10% of the 16,000 cases of SLE are related to drugs and there are over 100 different drugs like procainamide and hydralazine which are most likely to induce SLE (Chang et al. 2011). As procainamide acts on the lymphoid it interrupts T-cell growth which is a type of white blood cell that acts to kill diseases but it grows an affinity for healthy cells that don't have any disease antigen on the cell. For future research we want to look at how the prescribe medication alters the immune response causing it to attack healthy cells. We will be looking at the correlation of medication and how it can induce lupus.