

Alterations in soluble mediators predict transition to SLE

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(HealthDay)—For unaffected relatives of systemic lupus erythematosus

(SLE) patients, preclinical alterations in levels of soluble mediators may predict transition to disease, according to a study published in the March issue of *Arthritis & Rheumatology*.

Melissa E. Munroe, M.D., Ph.D., from the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City, and colleagues examined factors associated with transition to classified [disease](#) in 409 previously identified blood [relatives](#) of patients with SLE who had up to four American College of Rheumatology (ACR) classification criteria for SLE at baseline.

The researchers found that at the time of follow-up (mean, 6.4 years), 11 percent of unaffected relatives had transitioned to classified SLE. More lupus-associated autoantibody specificities and higher SLE-specific portion of the Connective Tissue Disease Screening Questionnaire (SLE-CSQ) scores at baseline (P

"Immune perturbations precede SLE classification and can help identify high-risk relatives for rheumatology referral and potential enrollment in prevention trials," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract](#)
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