SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS (SLE) CAN CAUSE PERMANENT CUMULATIVE ORGAN DAMAGE\(^1,2\)

More than half of SLE patients develop permanent organ system damage which could lead to increased morbidity and mortality\(^1,3\).

Damage is most common in these organ systems:

- **Cutaneous**
  - Skin
    - Scarring, alopecia (hair loss), and skin ulcers can lead to significant disfigurement, emotional distress, physical limitations and disability\(^1-3\)

- **Musculoskeletal**
  - Bones & Muscles
    - Joint and muscle inflammation and/or breakdown can cause pain, weakness, osteoporosis and arthritis\(^4\)

- **Neuropsychiatric**
  - Brain & Nerve
    - Severe peripheral or central nervous system disease can cause severe psychosis, seizures and strokes\(^3\)

- **Renal**
  - Kidney
    - Lupus nephritis (kidney inflammation), affects up to 60% of SLE patients and can lead to kidney failure\(^2\)

- **Cardiovascular**
  - Heart
    - Inflammation leads to heart disease and premature and accelerated atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), the leading cause of heart attacks\(^3,5\)

References:
1. ACR. Arthritis & Rheumatism 1999;42:1785

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