

Additional file 1: WHO classification for lupus nephritis

Class	Designation	Comment
I	Normal	No evidence of lupus nephritis on the kidney biopsy.
II	Mesangial Nephritis	Most mild form of lupus nephritis; typically responds completely to treatment with corticosteroids.
III	Focal Proliferative Nephritis	Very early stage of more advanced lupus nephritis; typically treated with high doses of corticosteroids, with excellent outcome.
IV	Diffuse Proliferative Nephritis	Advanced stage of lupus nephritis with definite risk of loss of kidney function; typically treated with high doses of corticosteroids combined with immunosuppressive drugs.
V	Lupus Membranous Nephropathy	Generally associated with excessive protein loss and edema; typically treated with high doses of corticosteroids, with or without immunosuppressive drugs.