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Table S1. Cohort characteristics at baseline differentiated by treatment indication for persistently active disease (N=17, Table S1a) and disease flare (N=9, Table S1b)

a. Persistently active disease (N=17)

Female	15 (88%)
Age[1] [years]	44 (37-56)
Disease duration[1] [years]	12 (7-20)
Ethnicity: Caucasian / non-Caucasian	16 (94%) / 1 (6%)
Organ involvement *[cumulative / ongoing]*	
Mucocutaneous	15 (88%) / 12 (71%)
Articular	17 (100%) / 8 (47%)
Haematological	9 (53%) / 4 (24%)
Renal	6 (35%) / 1 (6%)
Serositis	4 (24%) / 0
Neuropsychiatric	1 (6%) / 0
Active serology at baseline (anti-dsDNA and/or hypocomplementemia)	13 (77%)
Secondary Antiphospholipid Syndrome	5 (29%)
Secondary Sjögren's Syndrome	1 (6%)
Cumulative glucocorticoids (GCs) dosage[1] [g]	13 (6-18)
N° of previous immunosuppressants[1]	4 (3-5)
Concomitant therapies	
Hydroxychloroquine	14 (82%)
Glucocorticoids	15 (88%)
GCs daily dose[1] [mg prednisone-equivalent]	5.0 (5-9)
Immunosuppressants	16 (94%)
Methotrexate	8 (47%)
Azathioprine	2 (12%)
Mycophenolate Mofetil	6 (35%)
Cyclosporin	0
Antimalarials or GC only	1 (6%)
SLEDAI-2K[1]	6 (5-10)
SLE-DAS[1]	6.3 (5.4-13.2)
SLICC-DI >0	8 (47%)
SLICC-DI[1]	0 (0-2)
CLASI activity[1] **/ damage**[1] (in patients with mucocutaneous involvement at baseline)	16 (7-26) / 0 (0-10)
Tender joints[1] **/ Swollen joints**[1] (in patients with joint involvement at baseline)	6 (5-10) / 3 (0-5)
Physician Global Assessment[1] **(0-3)**	1.2 (1-1.8)

[1] Median (IQR)

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b. Disease flare (N=9)

Female	9 (100%)
Age[1] [years]	59 (40-66)
Disease duration[1] [years]	24 (10-27)
Ethnicity: Caucasian / non-Caucasian	8 (89%) / 1 (11%)
Organ involvement *[cumulative / ongoing]*	
Mucocutaneous	9 (100%) / 7 (78%)
Articular	8 (89%) / 4 (44%)
Haematological	7 (78%) / 3 (33%)
Renal	3 (33%) / 0
Serositis	3 (33%) / 0
Neuropsychiatric	2 (22%) / 0
Active serology at baseline (anti-dsDNA and/or hypocomplementemia)	8 (89%)
Secondary Antiphospholipid Syndrome	1 (11%)
Secondary Sjögren's Syndrome	1 (11%)
Cumulative glucocorticoids (GCs) dosage[1] [g]	21 (10-35)
N° of previous immunosuppressants[1]	4 (3-6)
Concomitant therapies	
Hydroxychloroquine	7 (78%)
Glucocorticoids	9 (100%)
GCs daily dose[1] [mg prednisone-equivalent]	7.5 (6-13)
Immunosuppressants	7 (78%)
Methotrexate	1 (11%)
Azathioprine	1 (11%)
Mycophenolate Mofetil	4 (44%)
Cyclosporin	1 (11%)
Antimalarials or GC only	2 (22%)
SLEDAI-2K[1]	8 (7-11)
SLE-DAS[1]	6.9 (5.1-11.1)
SLICC-DI >0	6 (67%)
SLICC-DI[1]	1 (0-4)
CLASI activity[1] **/ damage**[1] (in patients with mucocutaneous involvement at baseline)	9 (5-13) / 0 (0-3)
Tender joints[1] **/ Swollen joints**[1] (in patients with joint involvement at baseline)	4 (1-9) / 1 (0-3)
Physician Global Assessment[1] **(0-3)**	1 (1-1.6)

[1] Median (IQR)

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Table S2. Subgroup analysis of efficacy measures over time in patients with and without damage accordingly to SDI at baseline (S2a: patients with SDI=0; S2b: patients with SDI>0)

a. SDI=0 at baseline

	Baseline (T0) (N=12)	**1 month (T4) (N=12)**	**3 months (T12) (N=12)**	**6 months (T24) (N=7)**	**9 months (T36) (N=4)**	***p-value* °**
SLEDAI-2K [median (IQR)]	7.5 (6-10)	6 (4-8)	6 (2-8)	4 (1-6)	2 (1-7)	**T0 vs T4: n.s.** **T0 vs T12: 0.031** **T0 vs T24: 0.043** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**
SLE-DAS [median (IQR)]	8.0 (6.2-12.2)	5.5 (2.4-6.8)	3.2 (1.3-6.3)	2.1 (1.3-12.3)	1.1 (0.6-8.2)	**T0 vs T4: n.s.** **T0 vs T12: n.s.** **T0 vs T24: n.s.** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**
CLASI-A * [median (IQR)]	9 (5-20)	3 (1-6)	2 (1-4)	1 (0-6)	0 (0-0)	**T0 vs T4: 0.012** **T0 vs T12: 0.008** **T0 vs T24: 0.027** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**
Tj / Sj § [median (IQR)]	6 (5-11) / 4 (1-5)	4 (3-10) / 1 (1-2)	8 (3-18) / 0 (0-2)	3 (1-3) / 0 (0-0)	3 (1-3) / 0 (0-0)	**T0 vs T4: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T12: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T24: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T36: n.s. / n.s.**
PGA (0-3) [median (IQR)]	1.3 (1.0-1.9)	0.9 (0.5-1.0)	0.8 (0.5-1.0)	0.7 (0-1.0)	0.4 (0.1-1.6)	**T0 vs T4: 0.017** **T0 vs T12: 0.007** **T0 vs T24: 0.027** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**
Daily GCs dosage (mg predn-eq) [median (IQR)]	7.3 (5-7.5)	5 (5-7.4)	5 (3.9-7.2)	5 (2.5-10)	3.8 (0.6-8.8)	**T0 vs T4: n.s.** **T0 vs T12: n.s.** **T0 vs T24: n.s.** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**

* only patients with mucocutaneous involvement at baseline

§ only patients with joint involvement at baseline

° paired samples Wilcoxon test

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b. SDI>0 at baseline

	Baseline (T0) (N=14)	**1 month (T4) (N=14)**	**3 months (T12) (N=12)**	**6 months (T24) (N=12)**	**9 months (T36) (N=9)**	***p-value* °**
SLEDAI-2K [median (IQR)]	7 (4-12)	6 (4-10)	2 (2-6)	2 (0-2)	2 (0-2)	**T0 vs T4: 0.016** **T0 vs T12: 0.028** **T0 vs T24: 0.003** **T0 vs T36: 0.007**
SLE-DAS [median (IQR)]	6.0 (5.2-13.6)	5.2 (4.1-6.8)	3.1 (1.3-5.2)	1.3 (0.4-1.3)	1.1 (0.3-2.3)	**T0 vs T4: 0.022** **T0 vs T12: 0.003** **T0 vs T24: 0.003** **T0 vs T36: 0.012**
CLASI-A * [median (IQR)]	15 (8-23)	7 (3-13)	4 (1-8)	0 (0-4)	0 (0-2)	**T0 vs T4: 0.012** **T0 vs T12: 0.012** **T0 vs T24: 0.012** **T0 vs T36: 0.043**
Tj / Sj § [median (IQR)]	6 (2-10) / 0 (0-3)	2 (1-10) / 0 (0-1)	1 (0-2) / 0 (0-0)	0 (0-1) / 0 (0-0)	0 (0-0) / 0 (0-0)	**T0 vs T4: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T12: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T24: n.s. / n.s.** **T0 vs T36: 0.027 / n.s.**
PGA (0-3) [median (IQR)]	1.0 (1.0-1.5)	1.0 (1.0-1.0)	0.5 (0.5-1.0)	0.3 (0-0.9)	0 (0-0.1)	**T0 vs T4: 0.027** **T0 vs T12: 0.004** **T0 vs T24: 0.005** **T0 vs T36: 0.006**
Daily GCs dosage (mg predn-eq) [median (IQR)]	6.3 (5-12.5)	5 (4.4-10)	5 (5-7.2)	5 (2.5-7.2)	5 (0.6-5.7)	**T0 vs T4: n.s.** **T0 vs T12: n.s.** **T0 vs T24: n.s.** **T0 vs T36: n.s.**

* only patients with mucocutaneous involvement at baseline

§ only patients with joint involvement at baseline

° paired samples Wilcoxon test

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