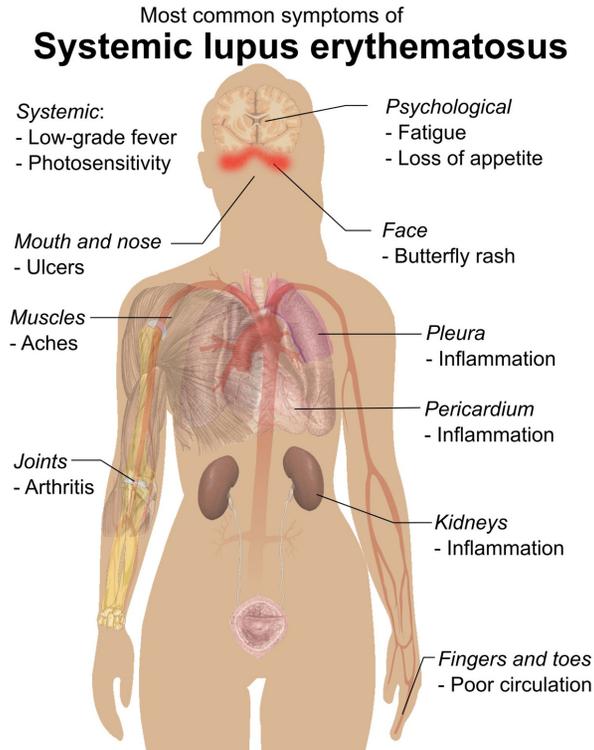


# Symptoms & Causes:



**No one knows what causes lupus.** Many scientists believe that lupus develops in response to a combination of factors, including hormones, genetics, & environment.

# General Information:

**Anyone can develop lupus.**

**Certain groups are at higher risk for lupus, including:**

- Women ages 15 to 44
- People of color (Lupus is 2 to 3 times more prevalent among women of color)
- People who have a family member with lupus or another autoimmune disease

**There is no cure for lupus.**  
There are medications that can be taken to help.

For more information, or to make a donation towards research and awareness, go to [www.lupus.org](http://www.lupus.org)

# Flannery O'Connor



# and Lupus

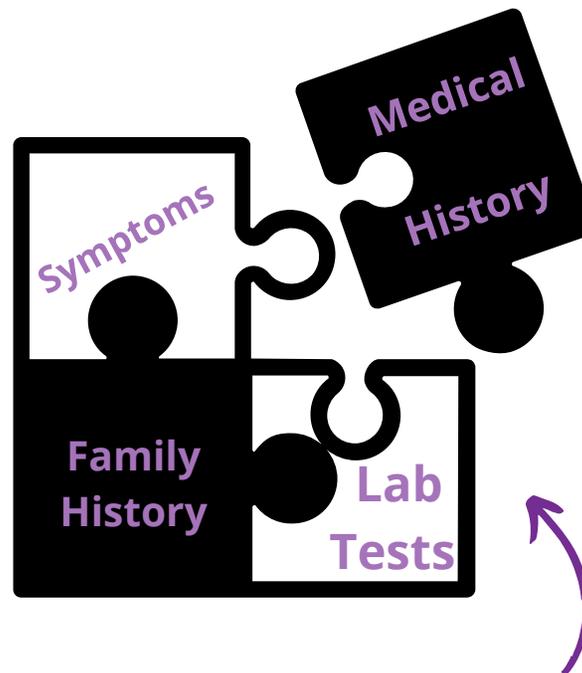
**ANDALUSIA**  
home of  
**FLANNERY O'CONNOR**  
GEORGIA COLLEGE

# What is Lupus?

Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease that can cause inflammation and pain in any part of your body.

Autoimmune means the immune system attacks healthy tissue instead of infection. With Lupus, the attack can be on any organ system in the body, and reflect other medical issues, which makes it difficult to diagnose.

Since diagnosis is challenging, there's no single test that can give doctors a "yes" or "no" answer.



Like putting together a puzzle, doctors will look at several different pieces. If enough of the pieces fit together, you may be diagnosed with lupus.

## Flannery's Life with Lupus:



Flannery was diagnosed with Lupus in 1951, just ten years after her father passed away from the same disease. She became quite ill, and once coughed so hard she broke her own rib. She also had crutches to aid her joints during flare ups. In 1964, following surgery to remove a fibroid tumor, Flannery's health deteriorated and she died of kidney failure, a result of her Lupus, on August 3.