

# Lupus Clinical Trials: Why Black Participation Matters

Your voice can help shape the future of lupus care for our communities

**2–3×**

MORE LIKELY: BLACK WOMEN  
TO DEVELOP LUPUS

**More Severe**

SYMPTOMS & COMPLICATIONS  
IN BLACK PATIENTS

**Underrepresented**

BLACK PATIENTS IN  
CLINICAL RESEARCH

**You Matter**

YOUR PARTICIPATION DRIVES  
EQUITABLE OUTCOMES



## WHY BLACK PARTICIPATION MATTERS

Lupus affects Black communities at higher rates than many other groups — yet historically, Black patients have been underrepresented in clinical research. Clinical trials help doctors and researchers understand lupus and develop treatments that work for *everyone*. When Black patients are included, it ensures new medicines and care approaches are safe, effective, and responsive to the needs of our communities. Your participation helps move lupus research forward and ensures future treatments reflect the experiences of the people most affected by this disease.

**Inclusive research is not just good science — it is a matter of health equity. Every voice included in a trial brings us closer to better care for all.**



## WHAT IS A LUPUS CLINICAL TRIAL?

A clinical trial is a research study that helps scientists test new lupus treatments, medications, and ways to manage symptoms — including better methods for earlier diagnosis and improved quality of life. Clinical trials are how medical breakthroughs happen, and diverse participation makes the science stronger.



## ADDRESSING TRUST & YOUR RIGHTS

Concerns about medical research are valid. Today, strict protections are in place:

- Participation is completely voluntary
- You can leave the study at any time
- You can ask questions before and during
- Your health and safety are closely monitored
- You should never feel pressured to participate



## WHAT PARTICIPATION MAY LOOK LIKE

- 1 Finding a Study**  
You and your healthcare provider review available studies to see if any match your medical history, symptoms, and eligibility criteria.
- 2 Learning About the Study**  
Researchers explain the trial's purpose, what participation involves, possible risks and benefits, and your full rights as a participant — before you commit.
- 3 Joining the Trial (If You Choose To)**  
Participants may receive a new treatment being studied, standard treatment, or a comparison. The research team monitors your health and progress throughout.
- 4 Regular Check-Ins**  
You may attend scheduled visits, lab tests, or follow-up appointments so researchers can track how the treatment is working and ensure your wellbeing.

## Ready to Learn More?

Speak with your doctor or visit our [lupus clinical trial education toolkit](#) to find lupus research opportunities near you. Your participation can make a difference for generations to come.

**Find a Trial**