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Women's health depends on a lifetime of answers—one test at a time.

Women and Autoimmune Disease

www.siemens.com/women-and-autoimmunedisease

As an integrated diagnostics company, Siemens' comprehensive solutions follow the complete continuum of care for autoimmune disease, including diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring. In addition, our solutions in healthcare information technology support the exchange of data for making informed decisions.

What Is Autoimmune Disease?

Autoimmune disease occurs when the immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys healthy body tissue. Normally the immune system's white blood cells help protect the body from harmful substances, called antigens. Examples of antigens include bacteria, viruses, toxins, cancer cells, and blood or tissues from another person or species.

The immune system produces antibodies that destroy these harmful substances.¹

In patients with an autoimmune disorder, the immune system can't tell the difference between healthy body tissue and antigens. The result is an immune response that destroys normal body tissues. This response

is a hypersensitivity reaction similar to the response in allergic conditions.¹ Autoimmune diseases can affect virtually every organ and site in the body, including the endocrine system, connective tissue, gastrointestinal tract, heart, skin, and kidneys.²

Answers for life.

Female:Male Ratios in Autoimmune Diseases

Hashimoto's thyroiditis	10:1
Systemic lupus erythematosus	9:1
Sjogren's syndrome	9:1
Antiphospholipid syndrome-secondary	9:1
Primary biliary cirrhosis	9:1
Autoimmune hepatitis	8:1
Graves' disease	7:1
Scleroderma	3:1
Rheumatoid arthritis	2.5:1
Multiple sclerosis	2:1

Adapted from: <http://www.aarda.org/autoimmune-information/autoimmune-disease-in-women/>

Autoimmune Disease in Women

- Autoimmune disease affects approximately 8% of the population, 78% of whom are women.²
- Women comprise nearly 8 of every 10 people with autoimmune disease.
- Women are three times more likely to develop autoimmune disease than men.³
- One in nine women of childbearing years will be diagnosed with an autoimmune illness.³
- A woman is eight times more likely to have an autoimmune disease than breast cancer.
- Autoimmune diseases are the eighth-leading cause of death among women, shortening the average patient's lifespan by 15 years.⁴

- Rheumatoid arthritis is the most common autoimmune disease, with a lifetime risk of 4% for women and 3% for men.⁵
- The basic immune response between men and women has been known to differ, with women producing a more vigorous immune response and increased antibody production.²

References

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For more information log onto
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Empowering you to advance the health and vitality of women throughout the continuum of life. **Your results. Her lifetime.**

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics, a global leader in clinical diagnostics, provides healthcare professionals in hospital, reference, and physician office laboratories and point-of-care settings with the vital information required to accurately diagnose, treat, and monitor patients. Our innovative portfolio of performance-driven solutions and personalized customer care combine to streamline workflow, enhance operational efficiency, and support improved patient outcomes.

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