

Moderator: Is there a link between rheumatic fever (age 12) and lupus in later years? Is there a relationship between chronic bladder infection and inflammatory bowel disease in lupus?

Dr Tucker: There is no literature suggesting there is a connection between rheumatic fever and developing lupus. If someone came to see us, and had that history I would have some significant questions about whether that in fact was rheumatic fever when they were 12. Rheumatic fever in North America and Canada is unusual; it is much more common in developing countries. Rheumatic fever is also difficult to diagnose. One would have to wonder if this was a precursor to lupus development, or was it actually rheumatic fever.