

## **Can Chronic Viral Infections be a Trigger for SLE?**

By: Arthur M. Krieg MD

Infections may act as a trigger for SLE, when certain genes are present. Epstein Bar Virus (EBV), otherwise known as mono-nucleosis (mono) may be one of these triggers. EBV is a chronic viral infection and therefore may stay suppressed for many years, but has the ability to reoccur at any time. Coincidentally, there is an increase incidence of EBV in patients diagnosed with lupus. This article details the relationship between EBV and SLE, explaining the virus-disease phenomena.