Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria

• ≥ 18 years of age
• Having a clinical diagnosis of SLE according to the SLICC criteria 2012
• Severe, active SLE defined as one or more of the following:
  ◦ SLEDAI ≥ 12
  ◦ New or worse SLE-related activity in major organs, i.e.: CNS-SLE (includes NPSLE), vasculitis, nephritis, pericarditis and/or myocarditis, myositis, thrombocytopenia (< $60x10^9$/L), hemolytic anemia (Hgb < 4.4mmol/L = 7.0 g/dL)
  ◦ High disease activity that requires or warrants induction treatment by switching to or increasing dosage of oral mycophenolate
• New, persisting or progressive disease activity despite the use of conventional maintenance immunosuppressive treatment (e.g. mycophenolate or azathioprine)
• Confirmed positive SLE-specific autoantibodies defined as one or more of the following:
  ◦ ANA titer ≥ 1:80
  Either 2 positive test results from independent time points within the study screening period, or one positive historical test result and 1 positive result during the screening period
  ◦ Anti-dsDNA serum antibody ≥ 30 IU/mL
  Either 2 positive test results from independent time points within the study screening period, or one positive historical test result and 1 positive result during the screening period
	• Female patients who are pregnant or breastfeeding
	• Significant hypogammaglobulinemia (IgG < 4.0 g/L) or IgA deficiency (IgA < 0.1 g/L)
	• Immunization with a live vaccine within 1 month preceding day 0
	• Active infection, defined as one or more of the following:
	  ◦ Hospitalization for treatment of infection within 60 days preceding day 0
	  ◦ Use of parenteral antimicrobial agents within 60 days preceding day 0
	  ◦ Serological evidence of viral hepatitis defined as: patients positive for HbsAg or HbcAb, or hepatitis C antibody positivity, not treated with antiviral medication
	• Having a historically positive HIV test or test positive at screening
	• Having a history of a primary immunodeficiency
	• Having a neutrophil count of < $1.5x10^9$/L
	• Having a significant infection history that in the opinion of the investigator makes the candidate unsuitable for the study
	• Having a history of an anaphylactic reaction to parenteral administration of contrast agents, human or murine proteins or monoclonal antibodies
	• Having any other clinically significant abnormal laboratory value that in the opinion of the investigator makes the candidate unsuitable for the study
	• Drug or alcohol abuse or dependence within 1 year preceding day 0
	• Having an active malignant neoplasm or one in the last 5 years, except basal cell or squamous cell carcinoma of the skin treated with local resection only, or carcinoma *in situ* of the uterine cervix treated locally and with no evidence of metastatic disease for 3 years
	• Having evidence of serious suicide risk, including suicidal behavior in the last 6 months and/or any suicidal ideation in the last 2 months