

**Practice Areas**

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY  
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A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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**Blogs**

[www.msdisability.net](http://www.msdisability.net)  
[www.migrainedisability.net](http://www.migrainedisability.net)  
[www.lupus-disability.com](http://www.lupus-disability.com)  
[www.ssdanswers.com](http://www.ssdanswers.com)

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**Link May Exist Between Insecticide Use and Lupus in Women** – as seen at [www.lupus-disability.com/lupusdisabilityblog/](http://www.lupus-disability.com/lupusdisabilityblog/)

More and more studies are showing a link between environmental factors and the development of autoimmune diseases such as lupus. The disease lupus, which can affect any part of the body (namely the skin, joints, blood, brain, kidney, and heart), is very difficult to diagnose, and impacts roughly 2 million Americans (mostly women). I have seen a lot of lupus disability claims over the years, so I recently built a website devoted to the topic of Lupus and Social Security Disability claims: [www.lupus-disability.com](http://www.lupus-disability.com)

As part of my new Lupus Disability site, I try to keep up with the latest medical developments and research findings associated with the disease. I found the following study, which explored the environmental link to lupus, very interesting.

The study showed that out of 75,000 women studied, those who used insecticides six or more times a year were almost two and half times as likely to develop lupus compared to those who did not use any bug spray in their homes or lawns. Additionally, if the insecticides were used for over twenty years, the number of women having lupus doubled. Epidemiologist Dr. Christine Parks noted that “Our new results provide support for the idea that environmental factors may increase susceptibility or trigger the development of autoimmune diseases in some individuals.”

Although the study did not conclude that the insecticides alone caused lupus, it did open up the possibility that chemicals in the sprays, how they are used, or the impact of altering insects from the environment may in part play a role in lupus development. The researchers looked at other factors, such as age race, ethnicity, education, occupation, etc. They could not find a link, however, between these factors and the onset of lupus.

The research is important due to the increase of insecticide use in as many as three fourths of U.S. households. Additionally, the findings seem to suggest that the longer the insecticide is used, the greater the risk for developing the autoimmune disease. The findings should also be interpreted cautiously, as more research needs to be done to determine whether the risk lies in inhaling the chemicals or if skin contact is to blame. Moreover, there may be particular products that trigger the disease, or even certain chemicals that increase the susceptibility.

Whatever the outcome, it is clear that there is some environmental impact on lupus. In order to safeguard yourself or your family, it is important to follow the directions

carefully and limit the exposure to harmful chemicals. If you already suffer from lupus, it is equally important to follow these precautions so as not to exacerbate the condition or cause a flare up in symptoms.