



Finding Her Fit: Ariel’s Breakthrough with Saphnelo

Lupus care isn’t one-size-fits-all—it’s about adjusting until something finally fits.

Balancing family, education, and a chronic illness is no small task—but for Ariel, resilience has become a defining part of her story. A devoted wife and a proud mother of three, she is also on the brink of an exciting milestone: graduating in May 2027 with her Master’s degree in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP). Her journey to this point, however, has not been without significant challenges.

Her health concerns began with persistent muscle and joint pain, overwhelming fatigue, and a rash that didn’t seem to respond to typical treatments. Initially, she sought care through dermatology, believing she was dealing with eczema. After trying multiple topical therapies without success, her dermatologist noticed a pattern more consistent with a butterfly rash—often associated with Lupus—and referred her to a rheumatologist. It was there that she received her diagnosis: Lupus.

Like many patients, her treatment journey involved trial and adjustment. She began taking Hydroxychloroquine, followed by Azathioprine. While these medications provided some relief early on, their effectiveness gradually declined, and her symptoms became harder to manage. Fatigue, in particular, took a toll on her daily life. As a busy mom and student, she often found herself struggling with her daily requirements. Reflecting on that time, she shared, “I try to keep up,” a simple but powerful statement that captures the ongoing effort required to navigate her responsibilities while living with a chronic illness.

Her journey took a turning point when she began care at Sage Infusion. Her initial treatment with Benlysta brought hope, but after six infusions, neither her symptoms nor her inflammatory markers showed meaningful improvement. With guidance from her rheumatologist and the support of the Sage Infusion team, she transitioned to Saphnelo. After just her first Saphnelo infusion, she began noticing improvements in her symptoms. Even more encouraging, her inflammatory markers dropped to their lowest levels since her diagnosis. For the first time in a long while, she felt a sense of relief—and renewed possibility.

She credits Sage Infusion as a key part of her progress—not only for providing advanced therapies, but for creating an environment where she feels genuinely cared for. She describes feeling supported, noting that she looks forward to coming to her appointments. For her, infusion therapy has become more than a treatment—it’s an investment in her quality of life. She shares that the infusions are “saving her time in the long run,” helping reduce the frequency and severity of Lupus flares that once left her homebound.

With her symptoms managed, she is focused on her family and upcoming graduation. Her advice to others: stay consistent with treatments, prioritize health, and most importantly, give yourself grace. “The day to day can always be different,” she says—a reminder that chronic illness requires flexibility and patience. Ariel’s journey is one of resilience and hope, made stronger by the right support and a care team that helped her move forward with confidence.

	Treatment:	Saphnelo every 4 weeks
	Results:	Inflammatory markers dropped A sense of relief Better quality of life <i>Individual patient results may vary</i>