

血清 VEGFR-2、sVEGFR-1、IGFBP-3 在原发性喉癌患者中的表达水平及临床意义

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[摘要] 目的 旨在探讨血清血管内皮生长因子受体 2 (vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2, VEGFR-2)、可溶性血管内皮细胞生长因子受体 1 (soluble vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-1, sVEGFR-1)、胰岛素样生长因子结合蛋白 3 (insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3, IGFBP-3) 水平作为原发性喉癌 (primary laryngeal cancer, PLC) 的生物标志物的意义。方法 选取 2019 年 7 月—2020 年 12 月在河北省邯郸市眼科医院和河北医科大学第四医院住院治疗的 PLC 患者 67 例 (考虑随访生存期 3 年) 为观察组, 另选取同期健康体检者 25 例作为对照组。抽取患者清晨空腹血液, 检测血清 VEGFR-2、sVEGFR-1、IGFBP-3 水平, 并分析其对于 PLC 患者的临床意义。结果 观察组血清 VEGFR-2 [(10 697 ± 1 687) ng/L]、sVEGFR-1 [(95.42 ± 13.87) ng/L]、IGFBP-3 [(19 415 ± 1 184) ng/L] 水平明显高于对照组 [(8 619 ± 1 721) ng/L、(78.95 ± 15.13) ng/L、(9 547 ± 1 036) ng/L], 差异有统计学意义 ($t=5.227, 4.943, 36.728, P<0.001$)。随访时间为 3 年, 按照 VEGFR-2 的截断值分为 >8 785 ng/L (高表达, $n=50$) 和 ≤8 785 ng/L (低表达, $n=17$), 低表达 VEGFR-2 患者生存率差, 差异有统计学意义 ($\chi^2=6.735, P=0.009$)。按照 sVEGFR-1 的截断值分为 >84 ng/L (高表达, $n=47$) 和 ≤84 ng/L (低表达, $n=20$), 高表达 sVEGFR-1 患者生存率较差, 差异有统计学意义 ($\chi^2=3.760, P=0.042$)。按照 IGFBP-3 的截断值分为 >14 815 ng/L (高表达, $n=53$) 和 ≤14 815 ng/L (低表达, $n=14$), 高表达和低表达 IGFBP-3 患者的生存率差异无统计学意义 ($\chi^2=1.940, P=0.164$)。结论 与正常人群相比, PLC 患者血清 VEGFR-2、sVEGFR-1、IGFBP-3 水平显著升高, 血清 sVEGFR-1 高水平以及 VEGFR-2 低水平的 PLC 患者预后生存率较差。

[关键词] 喉肿瘤; 血管内皮生长因子受体 2; 胰岛素样生长因子结合蛋白 3 doi:10.3969/j.issn.1007-3205.2025.07.007

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Expression and clinical significance of serum VEGFR-2, sVEGFR-1, and IGFBP-3 levels in patients with primary laryngeal cancer

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[Abstract] **Objective** To investigate the significance of serum vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2 (VEGFR-2), soluble vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-1 (sVEGFR-1) and insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3 (IGFBP-3) levels as biomarkers for primary

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laryngeal cancer (PLC). **Methods** A total of 67 patients with PLC who were hospitalized at Handan Eye Hospital and the Fourth Hospital of Hebei Medical University from July 2019 to December 2020 (considering a follow-up survival period of 3 years) were selected as the observation group, and 25 healthy individuals who underwent physical examinations during the same period were selected as the control group. Fasting blood samples were collected from patients in the morning, and serum levels of VEGFR-2, sVEGFR-1, and IGFBP-3 were measured to analyze their clinical significance for PLC patients. **Results** The levels of serum VEGFR-2 [(10 697 ± 1 687) ng/L], sVEGFR-1 [(95.42 ± 13.87) ng/L], and IGFBP-3 [(19 415 ± 1 184) ng/L] in the observation group were significantly higher than those in the control group [(8 619 ± 1 721) ng/L, (78.95 ± 15.13) ng/L, (9 547 ± 1 036) ng/L], and the differences were statistically significant ($t = 5.227, 4.943, 36.728, P < 0.001$). The follow-up period was 3 years, and according to the cutoff value of VEGFR-2, patients were divided into those with $> 8 785$ ng/L (high expression, $n = 50$) and those with $\leq 8 785$ ng/L (low expression, $n = 17$). Patients with low expression of VEGFR-2 had poor survival rates, and the difference was significant ($\chi^2 = 6.735, P = 0.009$). According to the cutoff value of sVEGFR-1, patients were divided into those with > 84 ng/L (high expression, $n = 47$) and those with ≤ 84 ng/L (low expression, $n = 20$). The survival rate of patients with high expression of sVEGFR-1 was poor, and the difference was significant ($\chi^2 = 3.760, P = 0.042$). According to the cutoff value of IGFBP-3, patients with IGFBP-3 were divided into those with $> 14 815$ ng/L (high expression, $n = 53$) and those with $\leq 14 815$ ng/L (low expression, $n = 14$). There was no significant difference in survival rate between patients with high and low IGFBP-3 expression ($\chi^2 = 1.940, P = 0.164$). **Conclusion** Compared with the normal population, PLC patients have significantly increased levels of serum VEGFR-2, sVEGFR-1, and IGFBP-3. PLC patients with high levels of serum sVEGFR-1 and low levels of VEGFR-2 have a poorer prognosis and survival rate.

[Key words] laryngeal neoplasms; vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2; insulin-like growth factor binding protein 3

原发性喉癌(primary laryngeal cancer, PLC)是呼吸系统最常见的癌症之一,其中以喉部鳞状细胞癌最多见。尽管多种治疗模式取得了一定进展,总体发病率正在下降,但喉部鳞状细胞癌患者的生存率仍然较差^[1]。现全喉切除术转向联合新辅助化疗,如顺铂和氟尿嘧啶,对于很多患者收益颇多,但仍有相当数量的喉部鳞状细胞癌患者因肿瘤复发或转移死亡^[2-5]。因此,需要更可靠和准确的生物标志物用于早期诊断、治疗和随访。肿瘤血管生成是癌症发展过程中的一个重要过程,也是肿瘤生长所必需的过程,其主要是由肿瘤和肿瘤微环境释放的血管生成因子介导的。血管生成途径中最显著的刺激因子是通过血管内皮生长因子(vascular endothelial growth factor, VEGF)介导的,VEGF存在3种不同的酪氨酸激酶受体,其中血清血管内皮生长因子受体2(vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2, VEGFR-2)发挥主要作用,VEGF

通过 VEGFR-2 增加内皮细胞的分化和存活以及血管通透性^[6-7]。另一方面,促血管生成因子对 VEGFR-1 有混杂的作用,该受体的确切作用尚未完全了解^[8]。有研究表明,VEGFR-1 作为一种诱饵受体,可以阻断过量的 VEGF,因此,它可能是血管生成的负调控因子^[6],并且存在一种可溶性的 VEGFR-1 亚型,称为可溶性血管内皮细胞生长因子受体 1(soluble vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-1, sVEGFR-1)。胰岛素样生长因子结合蛋白 3(insulin-like growth factor binding protein-3, IGFBP-3),是血清中胰岛素样生长因子(insulin-like growth factor, IGF)的主要结合蛋白,在生理和肿瘤相关血管生成中具有促血管生成作用^[9-10]。本研究旨在探讨以上几种血管生成相关分子作为 PLC 生物标志物的意义,调查其对临床参数的影响,以有助于明确临床上的诊断和预后效果的预测价值。报告如下。

1 资料与方法

1.1 一般资料 选取2019年7月—2020年12月河北省邯郸眼科医院和河北医科大学第四医院收治的PLC患者67例。所有患者均符合以下标准,纳入标准:①首次手术;②经病理组织诊断确诊为喉部鳞状细胞癌;③临床资料完整;④术前未经过任何放疗或化疗,手术后均采用化疗和放疗;⑤患者以及家属对本研究知情同意,并且签署了知情同意书。排除标准:①合并其他恶性肿瘤的患者;②合并自身免疫功能疾病的患者;③合并血液疾病的患者;④合并内分泌疾病的患者;⑤严重器质性功能异常的患者。所有纳入的PLC患者设为观察组,男性60例,女性7例,年龄41~76岁,平均(65.7±4.1)岁。另选取同时期的健康体检者25例作为对照组,其中男性22例,女性3例,年龄42~75岁,平均(66.9±3.8)岁。2组性别($\chi^2 = 0.027, P = 0.870$)、年龄($t = 1.273, P = 0.206$)差异无统计学意义($P > 0.05$),具有可比性。

本研究经医院医学伦理委员会批准通过。

1.2 研究方法 收集患者的临床资料。入院第2天清晨采集空腹外周静脉血5 mL(健康体检者采集时间为体检当日清晨空腹状态),静置15 min,以3 000 r/min的速度,离心10 min,静置15 min,取上清液,放置于-80℃冰箱保存待检测。采用酶联免疫法测定血清VEGFR-2和sVEGFR-1水平(试剂盒:上海佰晔生物科技公司),操作方法按照试剂盒说明书。采用化学发光免疫分析法检测血清IGFBP-3水平。

1.3 随访 术后对所有患者展开随访,并建立随访档案。术后第1~2年每3个月随访1次,第3年每半年随访1次。随访时间超过6个月,随访截止时间为2023年12月。旨在了解患者的复发情况,复发时间为病理活检或手术时间,死亡时间为患者家属具体告知时间。患者在随访期间死亡或者随访期间喉镜、CT并经病理证实显示局部复发,为预后不良。

1.4 统计学方法 应用SPSS 20.0统计软件分析数据。计数资料比较采用 χ^2 检验和Fisher精确检验。正态计量资料比较采用 t 检验和单因素方差分析。采用受试者工作特征(receiver operating characteristic, ROC)曲线分析血清VEGFR-2、sVEGFR-1、IGFBP-3水平诊断PLC的敏感度和特异性。采用Kaplan-Meier生存检验来估计随时间变化的生存率,采用Log-rank检验来比较样本的生

存分布。 $P < 0.05$ 为差异有统计学意义。

2 结果

2.1 观察组和对照组血清学指标比较 观察组血清VEGFR-2、sVEGFR-1、IGFBP-3水平明显高于对照组,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.001$),见表1。

表1 观察组和对照组血清学指标比较

Table 1 Comparison of serological indicators between the observation group and the control group

组别	例数	$(\bar{x} \pm s, \text{ng/L})$		
		血清 VEGFR-2 水平	血清 sVEGFR-1 水平	血清 IGFBP-3 水平
观察组	67	10 697±1 687	95.42±13.87	19 415±1 184
对照组	25	8 619±1 721	78.95±15.13	9 547±1 036
t 值		5.227	4.943	36.728
P 值		<0.001	<0.001	<0.001

2.2 不同临床参数PLC患者血清学指标比较 根据美国癌症联合委员会(The American Joint Committee on Cancer, AJCC)分期,本研究纳入的PLC患者中,I期18例(26.9%),II期8例(11.9%),III期16例(23.9%),IV期25例(37.3%);有远处转移者4例(5.97%)。有局部复发PLC患者血清sVEGFR-1水平高于无局部复发患者,差异有统计学意义($P < 0.05$),其余不同临床参数患者血清VEGFR-2水平、sVEGFR-1水平、IGFBP-3水平比较差异无统计学意义($P > 0.05$)。见表2。

2.3 血清VEGFR-2水平、sVEGFR-1水平、IGFBP-3水平对PLC分期的诊断效能 ROC分析显示,血清VEGFR-2水平的曲线下面积(area under the ROC, AUC)为0.752(95%CI:0.637~0.875),敏感度为76.1%;血清sVEGFR-1水平的AUC为0.721(95%CI:0.557~0.864),敏感度为72.9%;血清IGFBP-3水平的AUC为0.922(95%CI:0.861~0.984),敏感度为81.9%。见表3,图1。

2.4 随访生存率的分析 随访时间为3年,按照VEGFR-2的截断值分为 $>8 785 \text{ ng/L}$ (高表达, $n = 50$)和 $\leq 8 785 \text{ ng/L}$ (低表达, $n = 17$),低表达VEGFR-2的PLC患者生存率差,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 6.735, P = 0.009$)。见图2。按照sVEGFR-1的截断值分为 $>84 \text{ ng/L}$ (高表达, $n = 47$)和 $\leq 84 \text{ ng/L}$ (低表达, $n = 20$),高表达sVEGFR-1的PLC患者生存率较差,差异有统计学意义($\chi^2 = 3.760, P = 0.042$)。见图3。按照IGFBP-3的截断值分为 $>14 815 \text{ ng/L}$ (高表达, $n = 53$)和 $\leq 14 815 \text{ ng/L}$ (低表达, $n = 14$),2组PLC患者的生存率差异无统计学意义($\chi^2 = 1.940, P =$

0.164)。见图4。

表2 不同临床参数 PLC 患者血清学指标比较

Table 2 Comparison of serological indicators in PLC patients with different clinical parameters

($\bar{x} \pm s$, ng/L)

临床参数	例数	血清 VEGFR-2 水平	血清 sVEGFR-1 水平	血清 IGFBP-3 水平
性别				
男性	60	10 052±1 527	92.19±13.33	19 475±1 159
女性	7	10 761±1 316	96.57±14.56	18 900±1 134
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.177	0.817	1.245
<i>P</i> 值		0.244	0.417	0.218
年龄				
<65 岁	37	10 900±1 718	96.78±13.51	19 864±1 120
≥65 岁	30	10 154±1 563	92.79±15.24	19 398±1 268
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.839	1.135	1.596
<i>P</i> 值		0.070	0.260	0.115
T 分期				
早期(T1~T2 期)	25	10 494±1 293	93.97±16.18	19 241±1 206
晚期(T3~T4 期)	42	10 843±1 469	96.78±13.42	19 776±1 283
<i>t/F</i> 值		0.982	0.767	1.687
<i>P</i> 值		0.329	0.446	0.096
N 阶段				
N0	45	10 512±1 262	96.61±13.59	19 153±1 231
N+	22	10 803±1 346	94.23±14.94	19 628±1 278
<i>t/F</i> 值		0.867	0.652	1.465
<i>P</i> 值		0.389	0.517	0.148
M 期				
M0	63	11 392±1 588	94.12±14.83	19 860±1 286
M+	4	10 345±1 269	97.27±14.35	19 285±1 207
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.289	1.618	0.869
<i>P</i> 值		0.202	0.110	0.388
肿瘤分期				
早期(I~II 期)	26	11 121±1 570	98.69±13.24	19 375±1 300
晚期(III~IV 期)	42	10 391±1 423	93.68±13.51	19 732±1 275
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.966	1.491	1.108
<i>P</i> 值		0.054	0.141	0.272
病理分级				
低	8	11 195±1 493	94.28±13.99	19 864±1 300
中	38	10 231±1 415	96.56±15.01	19 348±1 112
高	21	10 864±1 326	93.14±12.85	19 848±1 260
<i>t/F</i> 值		2.374	0.409	1.499
<i>P</i> 值		0.101	0.666	0.231
肿瘤定位				
声门	44	10 982±1 578	96.68±14.11	19 275±1 298
跨声门	23	10 249±1 741	92.21±14.24	19 827±1 149
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.742	1.227	1.717
<i>P</i> 值		0.086	0.224	0.091
局部复发情况				
有	14	10 112±1 376	101.67±11.54	19 859±1 215
无	53	10 806±1 270	92.21±13.01	19 202±1 337
<i>t/F</i> 值		1.788	2.473	1.665
<i>P</i> 值		0.079	0.016	0.101
治疗方式				
手术	28	10 825±1 591	96.95±14.77	19 855±1 337
非手术	22	10 862±1 419	93.53±13.19	19 225±1 137
联合治疗	17	10 294±1 396	95.66±14.48	19 766±1 150
<i>t/F</i> 值		0.953	0.337	2.002
<i>P</i> 值		0.391	0.715	0.143

表3 血清 VEGFR-2 水平、sVEGFR-1 水平、IGFBP-3 水平对 PLC 分期的诊断效能

Table 3 Diagnostic efficacy of serum VEGFR-2, sVEGFR-1, and IGFBP-3 levels for PLC staging

变量	AUC	95%CI	截断值(ng/L)	敏感度(%)	特异度(%)	P 值
VEGFR2	0.752	0.637~0.875	8 785	76.1	71.1	<0.001
sVEGFR-1	0.721	0.557~0.864	84	72.9	66.3	<0.001
IGFBP-3	0.922	0.861~0.984	14 815	81.9	80.9	<0.001

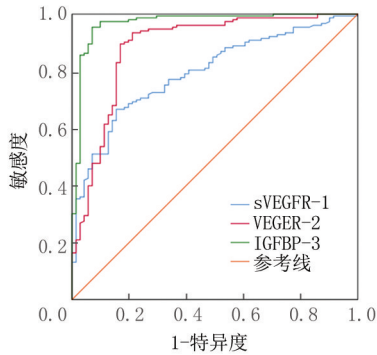


图1 ROC 曲线

Figure 1 ROC curve

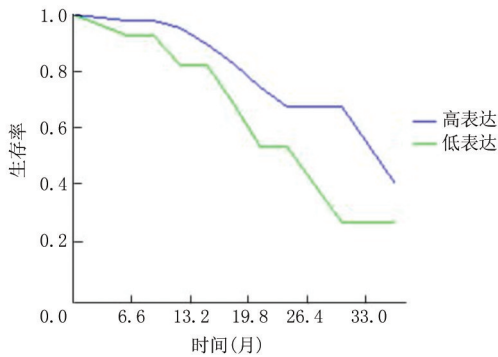


图2 VEGFR-2 高表达与低表达患者随访生存情况比较

Figure 2 Comparison of survival status during follow-up between patients with high and low VEGFR-2 expression

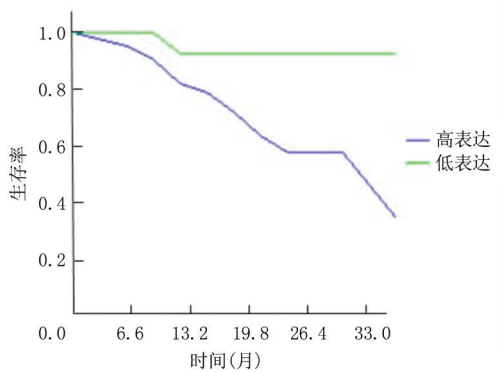


图3 sVEGFR-1 高表达与低表达患者随访生存情况比较

Figure 3 Comparison of survival status during follow-up between patients with high and low sVEGFR-1 expression

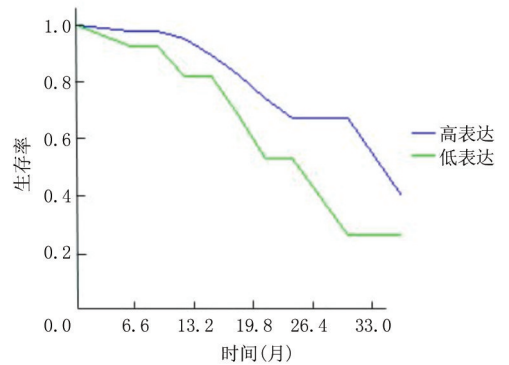


图4 IGFBP-3 高表达与低表达患者随访生存情况比较

Figure 4 Comparison of survival status during follow-up between patients with high and low IGFBP-3 expression

3 讨论

喉部鳞状细胞癌是最常见的头颈部鳞状细胞癌,它是一种实体肿瘤,与其他实体恶性肿瘤一样,肿瘤的进展显著依赖于血管生成^[11]。血管生成是一个复杂的多步骤过程,包括内皮细胞基底膜的破裂、细胞外基质的消化、内皮细胞在血管生成因子刺激下的增殖和迁移,以及从已存在的因子中形成新的毛细血管。在大多数实体肿瘤中,已经观察到更大程度的血管生成、更高的转移发生率和由此导致的生存率下降之间的关联^[12]。有研究进行了血管生成在 PLC 中的作用,证明微血管计数在预测无病生存方面具有重要意义^[13]。本研究主要根据肿瘤进展的特性和机制,在临床上依靠观察与血管生成相关的生物因子,以最小的创伤,预测患者的治疗效果和生存情况。

在人体的血管生成和血管通透性的调节上,VEGF 在其中占有重要位置,研究显示,VEGF 在头颈部癌症的发病机制中起着关键作用^[14-15],但是 VEGF 在头颈部肿瘤中发挥的作用较多。在一项使用免疫组织化学方法分析 PLC 组织的研究中,Sullu 等^[16] 研究显示,VEGF 与肿瘤直径、肿瘤分化、淋巴结转移等临床病理肿瘤特征存在显著相关。也有研究报道,VEGF 与任何临床病理特征之间的相关性都无法得到证实^[17]。Kulapaditharom 等^[18] 研究报道,头颈部癌症患者的血浆 VEGF 和血浆 sVEGFR-1 水平均显著高于正常对照组。El Zarif

等^[11]发现在早期和晚期喉肿瘤患者中血清 VEGF 水平差异无统计学意义。本研究结果与之相似。在一些关于 PLC 的研究中,没有发现 VEGF 水平与淋巴结转移之间的相关性^[19-20]。然而,Wang 等^[21]报道,VEGF 与淋巴结转移之间存在显著关联。结合本研究的结果,笔者认为 VEGF 在 PLC 中的作用有待进一步研究,且需要更进一步地了解其潜在的分子机制。超过 90% 的头颈部鳞状细胞癌高表达 VEGF 及其受体 sVEGFR1-3^[22-23]。活性 VEGF 的调控是可溶性 VEGFR-1 通过配体捕获来实现的^[24]。Misawa 等^[25]在头颈部癌细胞的表现遗传学变化的研究中证实,肿瘤细胞中 VEGFR1-3 mRNA 水平明显高于正常组织。敲除 VEGFR-2 可降低头颈部癌细胞的侵袭和迁移能力,因此,这种分子机制可能在转移中起着关键作用^[26]。Brands 等^[27]研究显示,VEGFR1-3 基因突变患者的总生存率较低。本研究证实,不同局部复发 PLC 患者 sVEGFR-1 水平差异有统计学意义,血清 sVEGFR-1 水平高于截断值的 PLC 患者预后较差。此外,血清 sVEGFR-1 水平高于截断值的 PLC 患者总生存率较低、无病生存期较短。Pentheroudakis 等^[28]研究显示,sVEGFR-1 mRNA 水平较高的患者总生存率较低、无病生存期较短。然而,还需要更多的研究来解释 VEGFR-2 在 PLC 生存中的确切作用。

IGFBP-3 对肿瘤血管生成具有 IGF 不依赖性的多种作用,抑制 VEGF,有利于抑制头颈部癌症的血管生成;另一方面,它也增强了血管生成一氧化氮^[8-9]。IGFBP-3 可能在某些类型的肿瘤中表达降低,而 IGF 增加是由于它通过与血清中的 IGF 结合以降低 IGF 的活性^[29]。然而,这种结合可能会增加 IGF 的半衰期,这可能会导致癌症患者的阴性结果^[30]。另一方面,口腔癌患者血清中循环的 IGF 和 IGFBP-3 水平均较低^[31]。本研究结果显示,观察组患者组 IGFBP-3 水平明显高于对照组。然而,在不同 TNM 或临床分期、复发性疾病和解剖区域方面表达差异无统计学意义。Zhi 等^[32]发现 PLC 和咽癌患者癌组织中 IGFBP-3 mRNA 水平较正常组织升高,认为这种差异可能对 IGF 有调节作用。口腔鳞状细胞癌癌组织中 IGFBP-3 mRNA 水平升高,IGFBP-3 可增加细胞迁移和淋巴结转移^[33-34]。因此,IGFBP-3 值的测定可能有助于 PLC 的诊断。

综上所述,与正常人群相比,PLC 患者血清 sVEGFR-1、VEGFR-2、IGFBP-3 水平显著升高,血清 sVEGFR-1 高水平以及血清 VEGFR-2 低水平的

PLC 患者预后生存率较差。但仍需要进一步研究,以确定其与复发的相关性。

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